

Some Wood family letters from Oxford, 1659–1719

By ELIZABETH WOOD

SUMMARY

This selection of letters from Oxford is taken from a larger group of business and domestic papers of the Wood family of Littleton, near Staines, between 1633 and the latter part of the last century. The earliest of the 'Oxford' letters are from Daniel Escot, Fellow of Wadham, Thomas Wood's tutor, to his father, Alderman Edward Wood, concerning his general well-being and behaviour; there is also a fulsome letter in Latin from Thomas to his father. While at Oxford, Thomas Wood met Stephen Penton, then at New College, and later Principal of St. Edmund Hall and Rector of Glympton, Oxon. There was an exchange of letters in May 1677; after that there is a gap until 1688, when Edward, Thomas's eldest son, came up to Oxford. The remainder are mainly from him and Robert to their father. There are also letters from Charles Whiting, tutor to both the sons – two of them in connection with a possible marriage between Edward and the granddaughter of Sir Thomas Clarges. Robert's letters are more concerned with gaining a Fellowship to All Souls as Founder's Kin – a rather tenuous connection, which was achieved in April 1695. This matter involved many people including Stephen Penton, a very close friend of the Woods, and throws a good deal of light on College politics of the time. Charles Whiting was also concerned in this, as was Thomas Welham, Deputy Register at the Prerogative Office, a cousin of the Woods. Robert Wood's letters refer to the War of the League of Augsburg, and the Jacobites' allegation that Matthew Prior only brought a blank sheet of paper over with him from Holland. After gaining his fellowship, Robert set out his expenses in detail. The letters end with two from him in 1719 concerning a gift from his father to the All Souls building fund. Little is known of Edward's career after leaving Oxford; he lived at Hampton, moving to Littleton on his father's death in 1724. Robert gained his DCL in 1700 and became a member of Doctors' Commons, and also of the South Sea Company. He died in 1738.

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INTRODUCTION

The letters are contained in a large quarto guard-book which is the property of Mrs. C. Harrison. The Wood family archives have become fragmented, being now chiefly

represented by two collections in the Greater London Record Office.¹ The present guard-book has been microfilmed by the Bodleian Library as 'Wood-Harrison Papers' (MS Film 1691); it is abbreviated here '*W-HP*'.

A note at the beginning of the book states that 'these papers were collected and pasted in this book by Colonel Charles Wood in 1860'. With very few exceptions they are not in chronological order, and have been pasted firmly to the pages. Many of them have been trimmed to fit the pages and have consequently lost either the salutation and address, or the ending, or both. Some drafts are written on the backs of letters and are only partly legible. The method of preservation also makes it impossible to see the endorsement on many of the letters. There are over 330 letters pasted into the volume, plus another thirty which are separately preserved. The book must have begun life as a scrap-book, as on several pages at the end there are cuttings from *The Times* of the 1830s under the letters. It should be added that although this method of mounting the letters has its disadvantages, those in the volume are in a better state of preservation than the letters in the Greater London Record Office which are tightly folded in bundles.

The branch of the Wood family represented in the letters has been traced back to Alexander Wood of Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, who died in 1479. The family continued to live in Fulbourn for four generations, and Edward Wood, who died in 1599 and whose tomb is in Fulbourn Church, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Chichele of Wimpole, Cambridgeshire. As a result of this marriage some later members of the family were to claim preference as Founder's Kin in elections to All Souls Fellowships.

Edward and Elizabeth had seven children. John, the second son, was knighted at Greenwich in 1603, and moved to Beeston near Leeds during the early years of the 17th century. He died in 1633 and was buried at St. Peter's Leeds. After the death of his son, Thomas, without male heirs, his estate in Yorkshire came to his nephew, Alderman Edward Wood, a member of the Grocers' Company, who bought the property of Littleton, near Staines, Middlesex, from the Townley family in 1660. Sir John's youngest brother, Nicholas, Edward's father, moved to Blakeney in Norfolk, and died in 1646, probably at Blakeney. He was the first member of the family to be elected a Fellow of All Souls (in 1589).²

Most of the Oxford letters were written between 1688 and 1697 by Edward and Robert Wood from Wadham to their father Thomas, the son of the Alderman. They are chiefly concerned with their daily life at Oxford, and some of them refer to current affairs. In 1689 Edward read some verses in 'The Theatre' at an Act for the Coronation of William III. (11 and 12).

There are a number from Stephen Penton, Principal of St. Edmund Hall 1675-1683, to Thomas Wood. The first, dated 1677, resumed an undergraduate friendship made when he was at New College and Thomas Wood at Wadham.

A few letters are from Edward and Robert's tutor, Charles Whiting, and are concerned with their academic progress. In Robert's case there is much reference to his hoped-for election to a Fellowship at All Souls which he finally achieved in 1695 (as Founder's Kin) (45).

The earliest of the Oxford letters are to Alderman Edward Wood, and relate to his son Thomas's progress and illness at Wadham. Two of them, from his tutor Daniel Escot (1 and 3), express much concern over his recurrent sore throat, an ailment which was to dog him all his life. There is also one letter to Edward in Latin, almost certainly from

¹ Middx. Acc. 262 (Part) Buckingham & Chandos (Stowe) Records; Middx. Acc. 1302.

² Squibb, *Founders' Kin*, 80.

Thomas (the signature is missing), probably written as an exercise. It begins 'Charissime Pater,' and ends, '... Ex collegio Nostro Wadhamensi viges. quarto die decembri Filius tuus ...' (2)

After these letters there are none from Oxford until May 1677, when Stephen Penton wrote having had news of Thomas Wood (4), and the retained draft of Wood's reply (5). These letters are most friendly and the writers seem anxious to meet again; however, there is another gap until one from Penton in November 1688 (6). From this time he wrote fairly regularly, but none of the replies from Wood have survived, nor those he wrote to his sons. This is sad as there are many of the letters to his agent, John Pack in London. Several of these refer to his sons at Oxford and contain messages and instructions for sending things to them.

To supplement the 'Oxford' letters I have included two from Robert in 1719: one to his father, and the other to All Souls concerning a benefaction from the family to the building fund (57 and 58).

Abbreviations which could be misleading, such as ye., yt., yr., wh., frō, have been expanded to conform with editorial requirements. Those which express the individuality of the writer have been retained, as has the original spelling and use of capitals. Edward and Robert Wood frequently show the year thus: (1689).

A biographical index of people mentioned more than once appears at the end of the paper.

1 *From Daniel Escot, Fellow of Wadham, 24 November 1659, to Alderman Edward Wood of Littleton, Middlesex. (W-HP 63)*

Worthy Sir,

Your Sonn hath severall times given me hopes that ere this time I should have seen you here which hath occasion'd this delay of the performance of the promise I made you viz: of giving you an impartiall account of your Sonn's deportment here which (seeing they are all frustrated) I have here sent it you and I would have you to believe it to be as farr from flattery as flattery is from truth. His Generall deportment in the College hath been so modest and ingenuous that he hath gotten a very good esteem from the whole society. He hath been a diligent observer of the Chappell and Hall which hath not a little conduc'd to his reputation. As for the Towne he is as much a stranger to it as any Gentleman of his standing can be, being rarely seen there but when businesse necessitates him, and I doe not beleive that since you left him he hath been in any Taverne or other publick houses, nay I may say scarce in any Collage-Buttery except our owne. Then for his Cariage to me it hath been with very much respect upon which account he hath a greater share of kindnesse from me than others have, for his improvement in his studyes it will, to any that shall inquire into it, appeare commendable. In fine he is all that you would have him to be and I doubt not but by the blessing of God, he will prove a reputation both to me and the College and to you the great comfort and blessing of your age which are and shall be the continuall prayers and endeavours of

Sir your friend and servant

Dan: Escot:

Nov. 24. 1659

My service to Mr. Boyer³ & pray let him know that I have a very great sense upon me of those obligations he layd upon me whilst I was with him.

³ 'Mr Boyer', probably Bowyer, a cousin of the Woods; there are letters from William Bowyer to Thomas Wood, 20 January, 1669 (W-HP 4a) and from Rob. Bowyer, 26 February, 1674/5. (W-HP 16).

- 2 *From Thomas Wood to his father, Alderman Edward Wood of Littleton, Middlesex, Wadham College, Oxford, 24 December 1659 (W-HP 52c)*

Charissime Pater

O humanitas vestra caeteris omnibus anteposenda, ex quâ efficitur ut nihil quod ad meum commodum utilitatemque pertinere visum est^a ate omisum sit, quis enim diligentius ad studia bonarum literarum me adhortatus est? unde fit ut non aquam ad mitigandas Flammâs, sed oleum ad augendas affundas: quapropter tanto diligentius in hanc rem incumbendum sentio, quanto pluri tua quam reliquorum omnium consilia facio: atque magnoperè spero fore ut nec te benevolentiae tuae in me admonendo poeniteat, neque liberalitatis, neque laboris, in adjuvando. Te magnum sumptum, magnum laborem in eam rem insumente ad Oxoniâ celeberrimam Academiam tanquam ad mercatum bonarum literarum et morum profectus sum. Et Quod quidem cum mihi in mentem occurrat omnes actiones omnia consilia, et cogitationes, ad id consequendum quod omnium rerum laudandarum est primum conferendum mihi sentio. Ego vero his multum monear, sed tuis consiliis et infinitis beneficiis sponte tua in me collatis plurimum, quibus ut satis gratiarum referre possim vix aut ne vix quidem ullus relinquitur [...] quorum memoriam me Summa religione et amore conservaturum tibi persuadeas. Haec autem ut omittam: Assiduâ precibus a Deo Opt: Max: efflagito tibi ut concedat perpetua frui felicitate teque mihi diutissime conservet: Mihi vero omnia officia pii filii et obsequentis praestare conanti ut fortunet quod si praestare potero non dubito quin tibi pro tua prudentia Facillime satisfaciam. Finem faciam sublavaturam scribendi tenuitatem humanitatis tuae magnitu [...] ex animo opto Ex collegio Nostro Wadhamensi viges. quarto die decembri Filius Tuus [obsequen]tissimus.

Endorsed:

From Oxford xber 24 1659

In Linguam latinam scriptum est [this appears to be in a different hand]

(Summary: Thanks his father for his kindness, and for encouraging his studies. Thus inspired, he has devoted himself wholeheartedly in Oxford to good literature and manners. Prays to God for his father's happiness, and for his own continuance as a dutiful son. From Wadham, 24 December 1659.)

- 3 *From Daniel Escot, fellow of Wadham, to Alderman Edward Wood, 24 January 1659/60 (W-HP 124b)*

Sir

It having pleas'd God to Visite your Sonn with his old distemper of a sore throat, and by reason of the trouble of it he being unwilling to write, I thought fitt to acquaint you with it. He tells me he is not so bad as many times he hath been with it and beleives he shall suddenly recover. I have not call'd any phisitian to him because he was unwilling I should, and he tells me that he understands his distemper and cure so well as to need none, so that he hath had nothing of phisick, but a Gaugarisme and a Clister which I persuaded him to because his not going Orderly to stoole had made him some what feverish. His diet is only Broths made by a cleanly houswife for him, yesterday Deane Bayly⁴ came to visit him, which was a great respect to him and proffer'd that if he wanted any thing as making of Broths or any other drinkes that his wife should doe it for him. Sir if he shall grow worse than he hath been us'd to be in this distemper I will give you notice of it, and that you may not afflict your selfe with any feares of his not being

⁴ 'Deane Bayly', probably Richard Baylie, Dean of Sarum, of County Warwick; President of St. John's 1632; Vice-Chancellor 1630, 1637, 1661; expelled 1648, restored 1660. Chaplain to Charles I and Archbishop Laud. Died 1667. Foster, *Alumi Oxonienses*, hereafter abbreviated *Foster*.

look'd after, assure your selfe that he is well attended, and Doth not, and shall not want any thing that may be conduible to his health, he being very deare to

Your
friend and servant
D. Escot

Wadham

Jan. 24 59

Your Sonne present his duty to you. My service to Mr. Boyer etc.⁵

- 4 *From Stephen Penton, Principal of St. Edmund Hall, to his former Oxford friend, Thomas Wood of Littleton, Middlesex, 17 May 1677. (W-HP 101b)*

Oxon: St. Edmund's Hall. May 17. 1677

Deare Mr. Wood

It is a very Long time since you saw this Hand Last: But Mr Dingly⁶ of New Colledge hath Assured mee that You have not yett quite forgotten the Person, but made an Affectionate mention of your old Acquayntance in his Company. The Newse of this must needs bee infinitely obligeing to a man who once I am sure Loved you beyond all Relations in the World, and I belevee, when hee sees you agayne, will find Reason to doe soe still. I was fearefull that the Distance, and Discontinuance of my Respects, together with the Variety of your owne Greate Affayres might have Lessened all Notice of mee, otherwise I had Long ere this been Your Guest. And if in a Line or two by the Post you will give it under hand and Seale, that Notwithstanding all your Greatness, you will give mee Leave to laugh with as much Ease and Freedom in your company as heretofore I could, You will Find that no Concernes of mine are Greate Enough to keep mee a Month Longer from seeing You: And once more talking over agayn all the Little Passages of our lives from the Ducks uppon the River att our first meeting to the Marrowbones at Dr. Harpars⁷ att our Parting. I pray God to bless you and all your Relations in whatever you wish or undertake - who am Deare Sir

Your most Affectionate humble Servant
St. Penton

- 5 *From Thomas Wood of Littleton to Stephen Penton, Principal of St. Edmund Hall, [? May 1677]*
[This is a much altered retained draft] (W-HP 101a)

My Dear Freind

I cannot express how pleasd I was att the sight of a line from thee, and the rather for the assurance you have given mee of seeing you: I must needs confess it hath bin a great unhappiness to have bin deprivd thus long of so good a freind and Companion, but I have made up the loss as well as I could with Thoughts and Wishes which I expect suddenly to be Consummated and that they may be so I doe give it you under my Hand with my heart for a seal that you shall be as wellcome and free att Littleton as ever you were att Wadham and wee will Try to be as merry with Jermy in the Buttry as formerly and Gentle Charon⁸ shall not be forgotten I am Dear Sir [...] your most faithfull servant

Thomas Wood

⁵ Mr Boyer, see note 3.

⁶ William Dingley, son of John of the Isle of Wight, gent., Hart Hall, matric. 8 December, 1665; B.A. New College, 1671, M.A. 14 January, 1674/5; Proctor 1682; Vicar of Chesterton, Oxon., 1678. *Foster*.

⁷ 'Dr. Harpar' - unidentified.

⁸ 'Jermy ... Gentle Charon', unidentified, possibly nicknames of College servants.

- 6 *From Stephen Penton, Principal of St. Edmund Hall, to Thomas Wood, St. Paul's Churchyard, 27 November 1688.* [The paper is torn on right-hand margin, and has been trimmed at the top to fit the page.] (W-HP 50)

.....
 You see what Hast I make to begg you to beleeeve that I was in Earnest when I told you how much I wished my Self at Littleton: I am not Courtier enough for [. . .] Genteel way of Lying to make Promises and att the same time resolve to break them, or which is all one, excuse the non Performance. If no suddain Hurry prevent it, I am very likely to call on you if you will promise mee not to Use mee so kindly as to make mee Unwilling to goe from you agayn: The Uncertaynty of my Brother's Recovery makes my Resolutions doubtful: And the ill looks of the Weather and State, have so sowred the Left-Side of mee that I am the Worst Company in the World, and as Unfitt to bee your guest as an Irishman. My service to your Excellent Lady, and tell her I am Affrayd that for her sake and yours I shall love your child att Oxford⁹ so well as to Spoyle him, if I do, I will never more write agaynst the Fondness of Mother Sisters, Aunts and Grandam, while I live – I pray God continue Peace, and Bless you and all yours and for ever expect the well-wishes of one who thincks himself Sincere when hee subscribes

Dearest
 Your most Affectionate S.P.

St. Paul's Churchyard
 Nov. 27. 88.

My respects to Honest Mr Thorkittle and Mr Bowyer¹⁰ and tell them I did not run away from Oxon on purpose not to see them.

- 7 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 10 December 1688 (W-HP (L) 16)*

Oxon Dec the 10 (1688)

Honoured Sir

I received your letter, and forthwith did according to your order, I took a bill of Mr White¹¹ for as much as Mr Whiting thought necessary, and, sent it by the next post to Mr Pack. I received an hat and a couple of silver spoones very safe, and now again must desire you, that you would give me a seall with your own armes upon it as a new years gift, wishing you and the rest of the family a merry new year, and that you may live to see and injoy many an one with health and happiness. Sir as you were pleased to tell me you was glad to hear my Tutor give so good a character of me, so I hope I shall do what in me lyes to preserve his good opinion, and yours to for the future towards me, as much as hitherto. presenting my duty to my mother and my Love to my bro: & sist: and service to my Cozen Thurkettle.

I am your Dutifull son
 Edward Wood

- 8 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 23 December 1688 (W-HP 49a)*

Oxon Dec: the: 23: (1688)

Honoured Sir:

I received a letter from my mother by John Hart,¹² which when I read, was very greifsome to

⁹ 'Child att Oxford', Edward, Thomas Wood's eldest son, see Biographical index.

¹⁰ See notes 3 and 5.

¹¹ Possibly a goldsmith: a Mr. White a London goldsmith is first mentioned in 1683, C.J. Jackson, *English Goldsmiths & their Marks* (1921); in 1718 a Francis White of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford, willed money to apprentice poor children: *V.C.H. Oxon.* iv, 471.

¹² John Hart, either a carrier or servant of Thomas Wood.

me (but thanks be to god, that it is as it is) I am not a little overjoyed, that the opportunity is put into my hands whereby I have leave to express, how much I am concerned for your deliverance, nay the news of which was more pleasing to me, then the perusing of the letter was troublesome to me, for then I banished from my heart that sorrow my fears had created on your behalf, and reestablished in their places that tranquility of mind, that renders me all joy. In short wee had no fear at all upon us here, because my Lord Lovelace¹³ was here the best part of the time with 3 hundred men, Prince George was here, and supped one night att the vicechancellours, and the princess,¹⁴ and truly I kissed her hand, I went as far as Abington to see the P: of Orange¹⁵ and there I saw him marching with his guard, and saw severall of the kings Officers come in to him, this at present giving my duty to my Mother and love to my bro: and sist: and service to my Cousen I am your dutiful son

Ed: Wood

9 *From Charles Whiting, fellow of Wadham, to Thomas Wood, Christmas Eve 1688 (W-HP 46a)*

Wadham College Xtmass Eve 1688

Honoured Sir

I forbore to write to you till now, because I thought the same return would serve for your son's settlement, and the quarter too, he has I suppose er'e this given you an account of his being with Mr Poynter¹⁶ in the chamber you lik'd. The entrance into it is not yet paid, because the bills were mislaid, and are not all yet found. The lower room's furniture comes to £10, soe that Mr Wood's share of it will be £5. Since (it being a favour to be admitted there) we cannot expect the abatement of thirds, it may be Mr Wood may have sometime or other the same opportunity. The Cockloft they cannot tell particularly the charges of, only they conjecture the half will amount to £2 - 10 - 0. The Upholsterer's bill comes to £6 - 17 - 2 for bed etc. and the hanging of his study, which could not be avoided. Soe that the extraordinary charges of this quarter will be the above-mentioned summs. The Battles in College are not yet given out, soe that we cannot tell particularly what they may come to. According to my computation your return must exceed thirty pounds. If any thing should be over, it may be securely entrusted with him, for I assure you, he is a very good husband: and as for his Study he is fairly inclin'd to that, and I'm confident he do's not labour in vain. he has shewn himself publickly in the Hall since he came, by a speech made before the whole house, and he quitted himself very handsomely. I'm afraid of being thought a flatterer. and therefore shall not enlarge on this. Give me leave to assure you that nothing shall be wanting in me toward his improvement, as I verily believe nothing will be on his part. I congratulate your delivery from your late trouble, and with my most humble Services, wish yourself, Lady and family an happy Xtmass.

Your most assuredly humble Servt.

Charles Whiting.

Pray Sir forgett me not to Mr. Thurstle.

10 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 27 January 1688/[89] (W-HP 43)*

Jan the 27 (1688)

Honoured Sir

Since you heard from me last, I have been a little indisposed, I had the headake very much, and was mightily bound, and withall had no stomach to my victuals, so my tutor thought fitt,

¹³ Lord Lovelace, John, 3rd Baron Hurley of Berks. (1616-1670), son of John, 2nd Baron; educated at Wadham College. *DNB*.

¹⁴ Prince George of Denmark (1653-1708); husband of the Princess, later Queen, Anne. *DNB*.

¹⁵ William arrived at Hungerford 7 December 1688, and at Abington 11 December. David Ogg, *England in the Reigns of James II and William III*, 218, (1966 ed.), hereafter abbreviated *Ogg*.

¹⁶ John Poynter, Wadham College, matric. 12 November, 1686 aged 15; student of Lincoln's Inn 1689; *Foster*.

that I should have the doctor's advice, which accordingly I had, he prescribed to me some few Pills, and they carried it off effectually, and now (thank God) I am very well. On Friday night Mr Penton came to me, and desired me to let you know that he drank your health with the rest of your family and Mr Thirkittles and that I was first that he had passed a complement on since he came to Oxford, which I took as a great favour indeed. He presents his Service to you, and so doth my Tutor. I [...] letter from my brother, who told me you had been troubled with the Dutch¹⁷ which made your Christmas very Dull and uneasy, but now I hope your trouble is over. This at present with my Duty to my mother and love to my bro: and sist: and Service to my Cozen Thirkittles,

I am your dutiful Son Ed: Wood

Pray Sir tell my mother that I received the sheets very safe.

11 *From Charles Whiting, Fellow of Wadham College, to Thomas Wood, 31 March 1689 (W-HP 57)*

Honoured Sir:

This is to acquaint you, that by Mr Vice-Chancellors appointment, your son is to speak a Copy of verses¹⁸ in the Theater on the Coronation day, when we are to have a Solemn Act upon that occasion. All the Noblemen who then will be in Town, are to doe the same; many have putt in for the Privilege, but the number on the last Inauguration of K.J. exceeded not ten, (besides the Orator) and will not in this. His Lemma is, *Leges restitutae*, but probably we shall send you a printed paper of this and the others. I must confess I'm glad of the opportunity, because I know he can speak well, and the Square Cap,¹⁹ (which is the reward) has been all along his aim. The warning was but short, soe that this is the first notice I could possibly give you. as to all other concerns we agree very well, and I have not reason to complain, nor, I hope, will you have to repent your placing him here. I can assure you thus much, and yourself may find it, that he reads an Author with far greater ease and tast already, than he did: I use him to both sorts, Latin and Greek, in the last of which his Knowledge is more, than any of his order I know. He do's not, nor is indeed willing to want business. Mr Vice-Chancellor has been all along very kind to your son, and seems to have a peculiar Love for him. The last words I had from him, were a Character of your Tea,²⁰ he commanded me to give you his Service and thanks for your present, and I desire you'd accept the same upon the same acct. from your most obliged humble Servant

Charles Whiting

My Humble respects to your Lady and family and Mr Thirkittle

Wadham College
March 31. 1689.

Endorsed

To The much honoured Thomas Wood Esqr. att Littleton in Middlesex Leave it at Mr Pack's in Thames Street next the Porter & Key near the Custom House London.

12 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford, 31 March 1689 (W-HP 156a)*

Oxon March: 31: (1689)

Honoured Sir:

I received yours, and you seem to be a little angry, because I told you that I had some debts

¹⁷ 'troubled with the Dutch': a letter from Thomas Wood to John Pack, 31 December, 1688, states 'I have some of the prince of Orange's forces quartered now att my house' (W-HP 49b).

¹⁸ The verses were printed in *Vota Oxoniensia* (Oxford, 1689) sigs. Ea 2^v - Ff 1^r, as 'Libertas Restituta'.

¹⁹ At this date square caps for commoners were still relatively new; see *OED* s.v. 'square cap'.

²⁰ Thomas Wood sent presents of tea to Charles Whiting, to the Vice-Chancellor, and to Stephen Penton, q.v.. There are explicit instructions concerning this in W-HP 165.

in town, it is impossible to pay for every thing as soon as it is done, as for setting a button upon ones coat or mending a little hole or any such like thing, but for the future I will pay for everything as I have it being pleasing to you. I received twenty pounds according to your order, and I have expended almost all of it, for your better satisfaction I will denominate after what manner. To my mercer thirty two shillings and sixpence. To my bedmaker six shill: my battells seven pounds six and sixpence, To my barbour five shill: to my Bookseller one pound nine shill: To my Landress ten shill: to my Apothecary five shill: To my Tutor 2 Guinnes, for a sett of new maps one and thirty shillings and sixpence, for chamber rent, sixteen and sixpence, for bootes and shoes twenty 3 shill: to the Talour twelve shill: To the chandler seven shillings, all which amounts to eighteen pounds and four shillings, so that I have but one pound sixteen shill: left, which I hope you will take into consideration, you mentioned that you would allow me 80 pounds per annum, which I am very well contented with, neither would I have desired more if left to my liberty, but I would desire some to begin with, you knowing how it is with me, without which I cannot do as you would have, that is to pay for every thing as I receive it. I as advised by the Vice Chancellour, am to speak a copy of verses in order to a square capp,²¹ in the Theater before all the Doctors and masters in Town, there being a crowanation act²² within this fortnigh, which verses will cost me 3 Guinnes but better laid out then six any way, returning both to my credit and esteem as well in the university as in the house, among whom (I thank God) I live in as great esteem, and am as much beloved as any one in the whole Society, and will endeavour so to remain, that I may with an untoucht conscience subscribe myself

Your ever dutiful son
Edward Wood

My umble duty to my Mother my love to my bro: and sist: and service to my cosen Thorkettle who wrote to me that if you would have his Globes now mended up, they were at my service.

Endorsed

For Thomas Wood Esqr. att his house in Littleton to be left att Mr Packs in Thames Street next door to the porter & kee near the custome house and sent as above
London

13 *From Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, Oxford, 30 May 1689 (W-HP 56)*

My Dearest Mr Wood

I perceive you missed of an Account from mee of your son's Laudable performance on the Coronation²³ day in the Theatre. And I beleev that I was then in so pleasant an Humour that 'tis odds but I wrote Longer and more Complementally then I can afford to do now, who write the Letter with one foot in the stirrup, and must bee in the saddle before it can be quite dry. But no Hast in the World can forbiidd mee to tell you that your Son behaves himself very well and is beloved by every Body. And though my Wayfaring condition permitts me to be capable of no other service to him, yett assure your self hee shall never want the well wishes of

Dearest
your most affectionate
Stephen Penton

St. Edmund's Hall

May. 30 1689.

My services to Madam your excellent Lady, etc., - Mr. Thorkettle

14 *From Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, St. Edmund Hall in Oxon, 19 September 1689 [Top line of letter has been trimmed] (W-HP 60c)*

... If I knew in what Language the old Bearded Philosophers did use to Whine out Excuses

²¹ See notes 18 and 19.

²² University Ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre, 11 April 1689, to mark the Coronation of William III and Queen Mary.

²³ 'Coronation day', see notes 18 and 22.

when ever they broak their Promises, I would then sue out my Pardon for not doing my Duty att Littleton this Summer. The Psalmist makes it a Character of an Honest man to keepe his Word though to his own Hinderance. – I hope I shall not bee thought a Knave who have Broken my Word soe much to mine own Hinderance, for of all Places in the World I guess I could bee most Easy att your House, where a man hath Leav to Love and bee Beloved in his own way, where Curtesy is not starch'd and stiffened with Formality, and a man is not forc'd to go to Dancing Schoole a month before he Enters the threshold. To tell you a Truth you may beleev if you Please, in the Spring I caught at the Water Side in a Storme a little Troute and a Great Payn in my Shoulder which cost mee beside Hard words from the Phisitian a Journey down to Bathe, where by an odd sort of Circulation, I pump'd the Payn out of one Shoulder into the other, which being stronger, hath thrown it off. So that now I were able to bee booted and spurr'd to wayte on your Good Family if the Bacon-Eaters of my little Parish²⁴ would allow mee a week or two more, but I must not Venture their chiding. In the meantime I will enjoy as much of you as I can that is your Son's Company this Autumn some times. I desire you to Give mee Leav to make him Idle, for being Enclined to the yellow Jaundies as your Son is to the Scurvy (Ladies call'd it the Green Sickness) I am Advised either to Marry or use much of some other Exercise, and being Shrewdly fear full that noe Body will have mee (though I have loss'd never a Tooth but what hath been Pull'd out with torment) I am resolv'd sometimes to go Birding if the Weather proof Frosty. Sometimes I, sometimes Hee, shall carry the bagg and when wee have no Sport, perhaps wee may talk wisely too: When I return'd, the First man I Visited was your Warden²⁵, and the First man I enquired after was your Son, who still hath the same Character of Virtue Sweetness and Duty, which I sent you in my Last (if that did not also miscarry). Wee have Remembred and talked of you all from tenn of the clock till two this Day, and if I have not Surfeited him this time, Hee and I shall be Good Companions as Long as wee Live. You must beleev mee when I tell you I take him to be a Prudent and Excellent Temper'd Child, and if Hee could but sing Sweet Jane²⁶ so well as his Father How should I Hugg him. I have never try'd that Quality in him yett. For his sake I will never rest till I know every Child my Dearest friend hath and how many of your Good Qualities you have sent abroad into this Wicked World, to mend it. One thing I must begg of you, not to Fancy that it was a Suddain Spirit of Complement and scribbling, which makes me write so tedious a Letter, it was a meer Tryall of Skill, and I will Promise you never to send so much agayn: I told you that I had a payn in my right shoulder and not knowing how farr it might prajudice Sermon-sticking, I was resolved to make the first Experiment on you and find that I may bee able half an Hour to bee Dull every week, not with standing the Payn. My Service to your very Excellent Lady and all which look like you or Love you from

Dearest your most Affectionate
Stephen Penton

My respects to Mr Thorkettle & Mr Bowyer²⁷ I hope you will still continue so stately as not to write any Answer.

St. Edmunds Hall in Oxon

Sept 19 1689

Endorsed: For my Worthy Friend Thomas Wood Esqre Att Littleton Forward Leav this at the Post House in Staynes

15 *From Charles Whiting, Wadham College, to Thomas Wood, 16 December 1689 (W-HP 52a)*

Wadham College
December 16. 1689.

Honoured Sir

I received yours, and thank you most heartily for your kind invitation to Littleton, but my

²⁴ Stephen Penton at that time was Rector of Glympton, Oxon.

²⁵ Probably Gilbert Ironside, Warden of Wadham, 1665–1689. See Biographical index.

²⁶ Probably the song, music composed by John Banister (1625–1679); it first appears in *Catch that Catch Can: or the Musical Companion* (1667), 176–177, printed by W. Godbid for J. Playford. Bodl. (Harding Mus. E. 711).

²⁷ 'Mr Boyer' see notes 3, 5 and 10

circumstances at present will not permitt me to close with what otherwise would be extreemly pleasing to me; when your friend Mr Penton is disposed for such a journey, very probably I may give you some trouble with him, but I hardly think 'twill be before Mr Wood's return. If things had not been well in the College, you had certainly heard from me before this. Your son returns home free from all vice, that I know of, I never either observ'd, or heard of any immorality he was addicted to; and as for his Intellectuals, Nature has done her part bountifully, and application to business (for want of which I cannot complain of him though I believe it may receive additions in him) would carry him through all difficulties: whatever he has done in publick, and he has oftener had turns of appearing, than others of his order, he never fail'd to perform with applause, and for this and his behaviour he has a just title to all that love and respect, which the Society in generall have for him; I shall leave his stay in the Country to the limitation of your prudence, only after the Festivall, the less, the better. Sir, be pleased to accept my late thanks for your Tea,²⁸ but I hope Mr Wood did me the justice to give you'em before. My most humble service to your lady, wishing you this and many an happy Xmas.

I am your most assured Friend & Servant
Charles Whiting

- 16 *From Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, Oxford 27 February 1689/90* [The paper has been trimmed at the top] (W-HP 103a)

[...]

This morning the Good natur'd peece of you which you call a Son, knowing how acceptable it would bee to mee to bee thought of at Littleton, gave me the Complement of your Service, and I took it (as I ought to doe) for an Hint broad enough, to testify the Pleasure I take in writing (to my Dearest), by Fastening on any the Least Occasion whatsoever. And now (mee thincks) I could even Cry and Rayle att the Sun, Moon and Starrs for this wicked Winter that Hindred mee from wadeing toward Staynes or enjoying the Delight your Son and I promised our Selves in being Idle together now and then in the Frosty Weather. I am very glad to hear that none of you are Drown'd, and that the Floud this Season did not bring out the monsters (called Irishmen) as the last did, my Duty to your most excellent Lady, and well wishes of Happiness to all that call you Father and bee sure not think it of Course only that I write.

Your most Affectionate
Stephen Penton

St. Edmund's Hall
Febr. 27. 89

- 17 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 23 March 1689/90* [The paper has been trimmed by the endorsement] (W-HP 175)

Oxon: March 23rd (1689)
Honoured Sir

I received a letter some time since from you, that informed me, under what circumstances the presentation of the Rectory stood²⁹, which letter upon the receipt I showed to my Tutor, after the reading of which (says he) I thought it would not be granted, now his meaning was, that he would put in a curate to officiate, and he would come three or four times a year himself, now finding that you say, whoever has it must be resident upon the place, I suppose he thinks no more of it. But (Pray Sir) if my Cosen³⁰ leaves it, I would willingly know your mind and more of his. Of late he has been very urgent with me for my Picture, which being a customary thing for some years to present the Tutor with, and a great many have done it, there being a very eminent

²⁸ Probably another present of tea, see note 20.

²⁹ Thomas Wood was patron of the living of Littleton, Middx.

³⁰ Samuel Thurkettle, see Biographical index.

and skilfull Painter³¹ in Town, which thing if you are pleased to grant, I am well satisfied.
Quarter day being att hand I hope you are mindfull of your ever dutifull Son
Edward Wood

Pray present my umble duty to my Mother etc.

To

[...] Wood Esqr. [...] ouse in Littleton [...] sent [...] It att Mr Packs [...] Street next
the Porter and Key [...] Custome House London

18 *From Charles Whiting to Thomas Wood, Oxford 6 July 1690 (W-HP 58a)*

Wadham College
July 6. 1690

Honoured Sir

I must confess this comes a very late answer to yours of June 14th it has been often designed, and as often hindered by some accidentall business, or other. I acquainted your Son with the import of your letter, and I hope, he has given you since a testimony, that he has been admonished: you doe well to require constant writing from him, there being no better way to improve his English pen. I dare assure you for him, that his backwardness herein proceeds not from want of duty, but he complains of want of matter, but upon discourse he is inclined to believe, that in returns of obedience and duty for love such a pretence is not justifiable. I have sometimes commended his parts to you, and the goodness of his humour, and told you, how much he is beloved in the College, which character I still stand to; but all I could wish, is, that he would use some farther degrees of application to business. I cannot say, he is idle, as on the other hand I will not tell you, that he studies very hard. I'm sure his improvement here answers his time, and if Study were become easy and familiar to him, his parts would carry him through any difficulties; I need not doubt your commands and advice to him, as I hope you will note the utmost endeavours of him, who sincerely loves him, and is your most affectionate Friend and Humble Servant.

C. Whiting

Be pleased to give my service to your Lady, Family and Mr. Thirkittle, who, I hope, remembers the globes.

19 *From Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 8 February [?1690/91] (W-HP 168a)*

Oxon Feb the 8th [?1690/91]

Honoured Sir

I did remain from scribbling untill I did receive my books which did arrive safe here this last week, which place in my opinion may be nominated a second paradise in comparison, after I have undergone those severe and many hardships of a school tyranny, but now at last I am arrived to this port of Bliss, where no Northwind boisterous storms proceed from the mouth of the austere looked master, this is the land which flowes with all pleasantness and mildness of nature, but without doubt here are good as well as bad, but I shall endeavour not to imitate but exceed the best patterns, and shall ever esteem my self undutiful, unless I be your most obedient son R. Wood

My brothers and my duty to my mother and love to my sisters:

³¹ Perhaps Marcellus Laroon the elder, who painted a portrait of Lord Lovelace in 1689, now in Wadham College: Lane-Poole, *Catalogue of Oxford Portraits*, (Oxf. Hist. Soc. iii, 219).

- 20 *From Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 24 February, 1690/91* [Paper is torn at bottom of the page, and has been 'trimmed'] (W-HP 54)

Oxon: Feb: the 24th 1690/91

Honoured Sir

I would trouble you oftener with my trivial letters, but that I fear you may reckon me as one of your scourges among the common calamities of these times, but notwithstanding I ought to make acknowledgement unto you for your kindnesses, although they cannot be suitable to the obligations I owe you. But I should hold it a very ill argument that because I cannot pay what I would, I therefore should not pay what I can, he is not worthy of a favour, that because he cannot be thankful as he should, resolves to be totally unthankful, such divinity would turn all Atheists, therefore I give you no little thanks for your last kindnesses hoping to make good use of the books you sent me, for surely you shall find the best endeavours of him who is ever your most obedient R. Wood

Sir I would desire you to acquaint my mother, that I did not hear before this last week of any person, that did make bodices hoping that she will not think it my neglect in not having them before, who did make great enquiry after them to whom I hope you will give my brothers and my duty to and our love to our sisters hoping the same health is with them as is with us.

According to your order I received the money of Mr White.³²

- 21 *From Edward Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 22 March 1690/91* (W-HP 69b)

Oxon March 22d (1690/91)

Honoured Sir

Since the receipt of yours I have been somewhat indisposed, as I wrote word, but now (I thank God) I am free from all pain, only there remains a place in my face, as hard as a stone, which is not at all sore, therefore (I am afraid) it will remain, Mr. Penton was with me, when I kept my chamber, he presents his service to you, but (I suppose) you have heard from him since that time, for he took a direction of me to write to you in all hast. I am very well assured, that the advice, you left with me, if observed, as I have made itt the utmost of my endeavour, will tend much to my own satisfaction, and felicity. The Sider came, very safe, for which I return my thanks, wee forbear drinking of it, because (I believe) the longer it is kept, the better it will be. My Bro: gives his duty, and likewise mine to my Mother, I am

Your Dutifull Son

Edward Wood

- 22 *From Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 16 April 1692* (W-HP (L) 19)

Oxon: Aprill: the 16th (1692)

Honoured Sir

All things dye it is an universall law and are subject to corruption. But you have affections that are priviledged, they know no declination, they hold out against old age, having never been more vigorous and ardent than on the 21 of March last wherein I found new tokens of your love, for which, Sir, I return you a thousand remerciments, and for an infinite number of other goodnesses, where of I percieve manifest testimonies in all your letters. My thanks for all your favours are not withering but rather of the nature of those plants that even with snow upon their tops retain perpetual greeness; for surely such shall you find the endeavours of him who begs your acceptance of the inclosed, and then that you will believe, that I am ever and every where as well as in this paper, Sir your most dutiful son

My Tutor gives his service to you:

Robert Wood

³² Mr White, see note 11.

Pray, Sir, present my duty to my honoured Mother whom I was very sorry to hear hath not been well of late but much more glad to hear she was recovered again, and likewise to my Sisters and Brothers. My Brother gives his duty to [. . .] my Mother and love to all

To Mr Thomas Wood att Littleton To be left att Mr Packs in Thames street next door to the Porter and Key –
London

- 23 *From Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 28 August 1692* [The paper rubbed in places, and some words obscured by the seal] (*W-HP* 60a)

Oxon August: the 28 1692

Honoured Sir

When letters have a convenient handsome body of news they are letters; but when they are spun out of nothing, they are nothing, or but apparitions and ghosts. And now adaies it is to no purpose to fraught a letter with news, since all things that are upon the stage of the world now, are full of such uncertainties, as may justly make any man loth to conjecture upon them not only because it is hard to see how they will end, but because it is dangerous to conjecture otherwise, then some men would have the event to be. The news which is stirring now is that the men which were designed for the descent in France are now landed near Ostend and so to march to the Kings army in Flanders, which we take to be a notable stratagem: Mr Penton presents his service to you whom I have seen two or three times lately and is very copious of his good advice which I hope I do follow, craving your blessing, so I remain your dutiful son Robert Wood:
Pray give [. . .] to my Mother and likewise my Brother gives his duty to [. . .] Mother he is in good health as he hopes you are.

- 24 *Most probably from Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, but signature is missing, Oxford 15 October 1692* [Paper torn in places] (*W-HP* 52b)

Oxon: Octob the 15th 1692

Honoured Sir

I never partake of that pleasure in letters which yours are used to carry along with them, your last lines to me were as delightful and as sweet as flowers in May, they wrought upon me with such an Energy, that a kind of ecstasie possessed me for a time. But as for the hint you gave me of not writing oftner, tis not neglect or that my thoughts did not tend towards you, but, tis only for want of something to say, therefore since it is your desire I will write though I compile a letter of nothing, for there is not any thing where in I take more pleasure than in the accomplishment of your commands, for I find by my inclinations that it is as natural for me to do your will as it is for fire to ascend or iron to move towards the Loads[tone] My Brother gives his duty to you and my Mother [. . .] to all & I hope the same will be accepted from your dutiful [son Robert Wood]

- 25 *From Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 29 July 1693* (*W-HP* (L) 21)

Oxon: July: 29th 1693

Honoured Sir

After the recreation of a long and tedious Act, we are returned to our former course of life, which I think is time now, when the Players tell us that they have consumed our stocks; and that they have left the remainder of the Quarter wholly to our studies, which time they hope we will not abuse, having nothing else to do: I hear not of any probability of a place being void at All

Soules, but for fear I will prepare my self, I am advised not to stand as a Founders Kinsman³³ but as an indifferent person, only buzzing of it about that I am one, my endeavours shall not be wanting, for I should be very glad of such a place during my being in Oxford: I suppose Mr Harwood gave you an account of the Colledge Armes, if not I can: Our last nights letters tell us of the engagement we have had in Flanders, and we hear that our Chancellour the Duke of Ormond³⁴ is taken prisoner and that Count Solmes³⁵ is dead and several other great officers wounded, and that we have taken the Duke of Berwick³⁶ and that Sarsfield³⁷ is mortally wounded, and since by private letters we have advice that upon the arrivall of Prince Wirtembers³⁸ forces we have regained our Cannon and are in pursuit of their whole army, so with the continuance of my prayers for your health, with my duty to my Mother and love to my Bro: and sisters I rest your dutiful son Robert Wood.

Endorsed:

For Mr Thomas Wood att Littleton: These to be left at Mr Packs in Thames Street next door to the Porter and Key near the Custom House, London.

26 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas Wood, Oxford 30 September 1693 (W-HP 166b)*

Oxon: September 30th (1693)

Honoured Sir

As t'was my fortune to meet with the coaches full the first time, so the second t'was my misfortune to have no company at all, but there being a Scholar of my acquaintance in the other coach, seeing me alone desired my company and I think if we had studied to have spent our time with greater diversion it would have been impossible; there being a countrey Parson who was a rigid Williamite and a Londiner who was on the contrary as great a Jacobite, so there arose a dispute concerning the government, this poor Parson (as I suppose) being suspicious of his own parts desired him to ware all disputes; at which the other finding that he had got the blind side of him, pressed the discourse with more vehemence; but the poor Parson urged such weak and mean arguments; that the Jacobite twisted him which way he pleased; but notwithstanding he would never be convinced, he desired that we would give our sentiments, which we did alwaies in the negative for him at which he was so incensed that when we came to our Inn and had spent some time there, he enquired of the master of the house whereabouts the Constable lived, and as it happened the Gentleman had related the story to the Lanlord before how pleasantly he passed away the time bantering a countrey Parson. So the Lanlord prevailed with the Gentleman to hush it up; I would give you the particulars of the Dialogue did I not think it too long to insert into a letter; I remain still in my chamber, being Senior of the room, but my Chum: hath orders to remove, the price of the chamber is enhanced very considerably: there is no vacancy as yet at All Soules; So with my duty to my Mother & love to my Brothers & Sisters I rest your dutiful son

Robert Wood

³³ Robert's great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth (daughter of Thomas Chichele, of Wimpole, Cambs.) was a great-great-niece of Archbishop Henry Chichele.

³⁴ James Butler, Duke of Ormonde (1665-1745), succeeded to the title on the death of his grandfather, 1688; Chancellor of the University of Oxford. *DNB*.

³⁵ Heinrich Maestricht, Count of Solms-Braunfels (1636-93); died of wounds received at Neerwinden, July 1693. *DNB*.

³⁶ James Fitzjames, Duke of Berwick (1670-1734), son of James, Duke of York, by Arabella Churchill elder sister of the Duke of Marlborough; in 1693 appointed Lieutenant General in the French Army and in his first campaign was taken prisoner at Neerwinden by the English. In 1695 married Lady Honora Sarsfield, widow of Patrick, mentioned in the following footnote. *DNB*.

³⁷ Patrick Sarsfield, titular Earl of Lucan; mortally wounded at the Battle of Landen [Neerwinden] and died at Huy two or three days later. *DNB*.

³⁸ Duke of Würtemberg, served with William III at the Battle of the Boyne, *Ogg*, 254, 256; and in Flanders in July 1693.

- 27 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 11 November 1693* (The letter has a small hole in the centre of the page and a larger tear made by the seal, indicated by square brackets) (*W-HP* 162a)

Oxon: Nov: 11th (1693)

Honoured Sir

It was my fortune the other night to meet with Mr Penton at the Coffee house who told me that he was just returned from his Parsonage out of Yorkshire,³⁹ which he hath been very lately presented to and he tells me now he is fully resolved to make Littleton his way to London the next time he goes and that not at an Inn, but to stay with you 7 or 8 daies to discourse with you concerning his new habitation for I told him you was [...] jinted with the place.⁴⁰ He was very plentiful [...] his advice [...] me, told me that now having passed through the Briers of Logick, he hoped that I would proceed with the same career into the fair fields of Philosophy, which would afford me rich matter for the invention to work upon: So I parted with him and returned him thanks for his admonition: We have no news stirring here but there is an insurrection of the poor people every market day almost, on the last Saturday they rifled the waggons before they came into town and at Banbury there was two men killed for making resistance against the Mob:

So with the continuance of [...] Jul and daily prayers for your health with my duty to my Mother [...] e to my Brothers and Sisters I rest your Dutiful Son

Robert Wood

- 28 *Charles Whiting to Thomas Wood, London 14 April 1694* (*W-HP* 64)

London April 14. [16]94

Honoured Sir:

You cannot be more surprised at the reading this from my hands, than I was when putt upon the writing it to you, but the motion coming from a Person who's Integrity I know, and whom I believe a well-wisher to your self and family together with the honourabl'n'ss of the design will (I hope) excuse the first freedom I ever took in a matter of this nature, and not improbably may be the last. The Questions I am desir'd to propose to you are, Whether you are inclin'd to marry your Son Mr Edward, if you are, whether the estate you intend to leave him will amount to £1600 per annum for that is the value required. I am, till you please to return to these particulars, injoin'd (for the Lady's honour) to conceal the name, but in general am allowed to tell you, that whatsoever more your estate bee, the Fortune will be at least answerable, and that the young Lady for her quality, Education, and person is beyond all exception, in short 'tis suggested by my Friend (who well knows the Circumstances) that 'twill be an highly advantageous match. My time here will be but short, and therefore I intreat your answer by the first, but if you think it worth while to see London upon this occasion, I will trespass a day or 2 longer to wait upon you for your further satisfaction. I desire you'd pardon the trouble I have hereby given you, and believe it to proceed from the respect is ever due to your Family from

Worthy Sir

Your most obliged Charles Whiting

- 29 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 21 April 1694, enclosing a letter from Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood.* (*W-HP* 74)

Oxon: April 21st 1694

Honoured Sir

Mr Penton (whom I had a long conference with concerning my standing at All-Soules)

³⁹ Stephen Penton was instituted in September 1693 as Rector of Wath by Ripon. See Biographical index.

⁴⁰ Thomas Wood had inherited some land in Yorkshire, not far from Wath. His father Edward bought Middleham Castle in 1661.

ordered me to write to you that he might insert those lines at the bottom; I found by him that he was altogether ignorant of their statutes, but at New Colled. (of which he was member) he says 'tis sufficient to prove that one had a relation came in as Founder's Kinsman; I was mighty urgent with him to enquire into their statutes before he saw you; but he thinks it better to discourse with you about it first; I was telling him there was ten lives expired from the Founder which would be an objection brought against me, he told me he thought that could not be; because he believed there was not ten lives past from the Founder of New Coll; of which Col: the Founder of All-Soules was fellow: I have made but small progress as yet in the Mathematicks and hitherto I find it to be very crabbed, and that 'twill not require a little pains to go thorough with it, it makes an Old Proverb good, that he who will eat the cornel must take the pains to crack the shell, so with my duty to my Mother and love to my Brothers and Sisters I am

Your dutiful son
Robert Wood

Dearest Mr Wood

Though I am fully Satisfied that it is impossible for mee to forgett you as long as I live, yett not writing, and not visiting, may look like forgettfullness, and therfore when I come to London I will first write and then (my peace being made) come to you in the Stage Coach, to discourse you about the Considerable point of your Sons foundership in All Soules, or some other Cours of Life, and of Affaires in Yorkshire, near Ripon where I shall Winter if I can ridd my Self of a Paine in my Side I have long laboured under. My Duty to Madam and wishes of all the Happiness your own dear Soules can desire. Steph. Penton

Wadham Coll. Apr. 1694

30 *John Millington, Vicar of All Saints, Fulbourn, Cambs., 21 April 1694, to Thomas Wood (W-HP 7a)*

Aprill the 21 1694
Coll: Magd: Cambridge

Sir

I have according to the desine of Dr. Eachard⁴¹ Searched the Fulburn churches for monuments of the family of the Woodes and can find or hear of these no more than one which hath upon it cutt in stone the Effigies at Large of two persons:⁴² that they were Woods the tradition of the town is unanimous but there is no inscription nor doth it appear that there ever hath been any about or on the monument, but there are severall coates of Armes and some of them have other coates Quartered with them, but whose coates they are I can meet with no one at Fulburn can tell me, I am

Sir
Your most humble Servant
John Millington

31 *Charles Whiting to Thomas Wood, London 29 April 1694 (W-HP 102a)*

London April 29 [16]94

Honoured Sir

The Gentleman upon who's importunity I ventured to write what I did is one Mr Latton (a Fellow of our College, and who's character I believe your Son is no stranger to) do's now thus

⁴¹ Dr. John Eachard, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, admitted sizar in 10 May 1653; DD 1676 (Lit. Reg.); fellow 1658; Master of the College 1675-97; Vice Chancellor 1679-80, 1695-6, Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigien- ses*, hereafter abbreviated *Venn*.

⁴² The tomb is still in Fulbourn Church; it has the arms of the Chichele and Wood families.

farther explain himself. Your neighbour Mr Michel of Richmond had told Sir Walter Clargis, that he wish'd a match betwixt your son and his daughter, which Sir Walter afterwards mention'd to his Father Sir Thomas, and they thinking that in decency it ought to be moved on the man's side, he putt me upon proposing it to you. My business necessarily calls me home, and I am determined for Oxon tomorrow; if you come to Town and think fitt to discourse, Mr Latton, he lodges at Mrs Martin's in Durham Yard, and will be ready upon the notice of your coming to wait upon you at the place you assign, or in case you cannot come he will meet you at Mr Mitchel's who was the first proposer, at what time you'll be pleased to fix. Mr Mitchel and He are well acquainted, and they will be able to satisfy you in the particulars, which I believe you'll find very desirable, and should they appear so to you, as they are represented, I wish Mr Wood all Success, agreeable to the goodness of his Temper, which I have been just, and but just in the commendation of. If I can be any farther instrumental in this matter, your Letter to Oxford shall command the utmost services of

Sir
Your most obliged
Charles Whiting

My most humble service to your Lady and Son

32 *William Latton, Fellow of Wadham College to Thomas Wood, London May 1694 (W-HP 135a)*

Lond: Maij 1694

Mr Wood

I have been harrass'd by a most dreadful feaver for some weeks past and have dayly expected my death for the greatest part of the time. I am still too soe very ill that I am in noe Capacity of serving you in the matter you propose. I remember Mr Michel told me that Sir Walter had frankly given you and your Son an invitation to a Commons where you might be better Satisfy'd both by sight of the Lady and in Settling as you pleased with Sir Thomas. This Invitation I am confident Sir Thomas and Sir Walter doe think you'll be soe kind to answer, and indeed, I hop'd it had been over by this time. If you'll take my weak Sentiment it is that (since matters have been fully Opend between yee) noe man can be so proper as your Selfe to drive that nail nor noe Occasion more kind Nor what you'll have when you answer Sir Walters frank invitation. My head and pen only hold out to tell you I am Sir your very humble Servant

W. Latton

33 *Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, London, 13 July 1694 (W-HP 99b)*

Bishops head in St. Paul's Church yard
July 13 [16]94

Dearest Sir

Meeting with Mr Wallis⁴³ this morning, hee was so kind as to ask mee what Service I had to you, your name putt mee to the Blush, knowing how farr I have gon to the forfeiting the Friendship of a Good Acquaintance. I came up a great while since to London but being forced to fight with an indisposition (from a pain in my side) and London being unfitt to take Physick in (which is it self a Disease) I have been many weekes out of it. I will not make a Promise for fear of breaking it, but I will try to steal away from my many little impertinent affaires to see you before I goe into Yorkshire, when that may happen I cannot determine - I would have you mind the Business of all Soules I mentioned in my last. My Duty to your good Lady and wishes of all the Happiness your own Dear Soules can desire.

Your Affect.
Ste Penton

⁴³ Possibly John Wallis, B.A. from Emmanuel College, Cambridge 1636/7; fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge 1644; incorp. Exeter College by Diploma 25 June, 1649; Savilian professor of Geometry 1649 until his death in 1703. *Foster*.

34 *Thomas Welham to Thomas Wood, Prerogative Office, 13 July 1694 (W-HP 105)*

Sir

I received yours, and since my writing that letter you received I have seen two books in the Heraulds Office wherein are the pedigrees of your family from Edward Wood of Fulborne County Cantab. where I ended in my first account a particulier of which I sent yesterday but least my letter might miscarry I here repeate the same.

Edward Wood who marryed Elizabeth Daughter of Tho: Chicheley had issue

Peter Wood son and heire

Sir John wood of Biston [Beeston] Com. Ebor 2nd son

Nicholas his third son

Sir John Marryed Susan the Daughter of William Prettyman of Suffok and hee had Nicholas⁴⁴ his son and heire aged 25. Anno 1617

William his 2nd sonne

and

Thomas his 3rd Son

Now I suppose from some of Sir John's sonnes (who were grandsons of Edward of Fulborne) you can derive your pedigree, if you please to give mee an answer to my yesterday's letter which I hope you will receive this day, I will make further search in the Heraulds Office when my freind Sir Harry St. George who is one of the Kings of Armes returns out of the Countrey which as hee told mee will be a weeke hence. My son Charles hath now the small pox but he is like to have very few and hee is very chearfull, and I hope in lesse than a fortnight hee will bee well and abroad. Pray give my humble service to my Cozen and to all your good family, and accept the Same your Selfe from

your humble Servant and

kinsman

Tho: Welham

Prerogative Office

13 Julij 1694

35 *Thomas Welham to Thomas Wood, Prerogative Office, 23 July 1694 (W-HP 104a)*

Sir

Sir Harry St. George came to Towne this last Saturday and I was this morning at our Coffee house with him, and hee tells mee hee may give you further satisfaction as to the continuation of your Descent from the last I sent you, when hee knows who your Grandfather and Father marryed hee tells mee further that hee can shew mee the Pedigree of the Chicheleys done by command of Archbishop Laud upon the Accompt of All Souls College and I am sure you will be very plaine soe that Sir Harry and I are of opinion that you cannot be denied by the College. Sir Harry will stay in Towne a fortnight and then hee will goe out of Towne only for two or three dayes. My son George I thank God is very well and was up all yesterday and quarrelled with his Maid because shee did [not] give him victualls enough, Pray give my Service to all my Cozens, with my love to my Daughter.⁴⁵

Your humble Servant and

Kinsman

Tho: Welham

Prerogative Office

23rd Julij 1694

⁴⁴ 'Nicholas' is an error. In a family genealogy (*W-HP* i) Sir John's eldest son is named John, and is mentioned by that name in a conveyance of 1609, and a letter of 1633 (*W-HP* ii & iii). The dates are correct for John.

⁴⁵ His daughter lived with the Woods at Littleton for a time. Thomas Welham was Dorothy Wood's cousin.

36 *Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, 23 July 1694 (W-HP 62a)*

July 23 [16]94

Dear Sir

I am Commanded by the Physitians att whose mercy I have been some time for a paine in my side (which they call the Spleen because they thinck I am too Old to bee in Love) to goe for Astrap⁴⁶ to morrow, though, if I had been as wise as they, I would have gon sooner to Littleton; needs must goe when Physitian drives – You write as if you were Angry for my not coming to you, And I am as Angry with myself, as you can bee for it. But now you are Sufficiently Reveng'd on mee, by concealing from mee the being of your Lady and Daughter in town, (which Mr. Wallis⁴⁷ told mee of this night). It would have been a Fine opportunity of performing some part of my Duty, by Kissing their hand, but since you would not let mee have this Honour, the Scolding part is mine, as far as can consist with being your Affectionate S. Penton.

My respects to Mr. Thomas.

37 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 2 August 1694 (W-HP (L) 22)*

Oxon: August: 2nd (1694)

Honoured Sir

As on the one side I was glad to find my pedigree produced so clear and evident that (in my judgment) there can be no objection brought against it, so on the other I was sorry to hear by Mr. Morgan,⁴⁸ that the Visiter⁴⁹ and Warden⁵⁰ were reconciled, which, if true, I am afraid will prove somewhat disadvantageous to me, if there should be any occasion for a Visitation. I wish you may have the opportunity of discoursing with the Warden⁵¹ before the Election comes on, for thereby you will know in a great measure their designs and likewise how you yourself may proceed; I would willingly be certified whether you intend I shall take my degree or not because here is some exercise to be performed in the Colledge, before I can commence, 'twill not be the least advantage to me in my proceedings at A. S. and if you do not intend I shall reside here, as indeed there is little or no encouragement if I don't succeed, there will be upward of 20£ thrown away, which the expense of my degree will amount to.

Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to my Bro: and Sisters, I am your dutiful son Robert Wood.

38 *Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood, from Oxford; the letter has been trimmed at top and bottom of page – probably August 1694 (W-HP 61)*

.....
I have, (with Mr Whiting and your Son), considered the Affaire of All Soules: wee all agree that the Interest of Foundership in that College, is a very great Advantage to the Generation to come in your Family, which I hope will never want younger Sons capable to bee bredd wise men, that is Arch Bishops or Lord chancellours of England – As for your direct Title, by the Letter your Son showed mee, I thinck it is unquestionable, but what time you are to give your Title and claime in to the College to bee Examined befor the Election, is now quickly to bee Considered, otherwise they may Except uppon that Account; For you must expect that they will Oppose all prætensions of Foundership as farr as is possible, least other Familyes take the Hint – I have

⁴⁶ Astrop, a hamlet near Kings Sutton, Northants., where there used to be a 'mineral spring, called St. Rumbald's well, formerly much frequented for cutaneous diseases' (John Marius Wilson, *Imperial Gazetteer of England & Wales*, 1866).

⁴⁷ See note 43.

⁴⁸ Probably his brother-in-law. Dorothy Wood married Richard Morgan of Surbiton in 1693.

⁴⁹ Archbishop John Tillotson, died 22 November, 1694. *DNB*

⁵⁰ Leopold Finch, see Biographical index.

⁵¹ Probably Thomas Dunster, Warden of Wadham, see Biographical index.

asked a Civill Lawyer's Opinion, who tells me that your Pretense must depend upon the Founders Grant and statutes how farr hee requires [his] kinred to bee Considered, this I suppose you have thought on before now - One thing more between you and mee runns in my Head, The College dreading the coming in of a Founder, (I would not have so Good and Exemplary a young Gentleman as your son is Baffled) suppose the Electours should bee peevisch att the Election and spiteful they may baffle by scurvy quæstions, and other odd carryage, the Best Youth in the University, and disgrace him as Insufficient, unless you know what Qualifications the statutes accept off and can Remedye your self supposing your Son Abused in such a Case: Sir This is the utmost I can thinck in this Affaire, and is the result of the Greatest Affection in the World: The best way is to come immediately to Oxford, and take Advice. Mr Whiting and your Son know my Opinion supposing I may bee out of the way, for my going to Rippon and settling thereabout, finds mee much work to doe in 3 weeks time. My Service to Madam and wishes of all the Happiness your own Soules can desire from
Your Affect Steph. Penton

39 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 1 September 1694 (W-HP 58b)*

Oxon: September 1st (1694)

Honoured Sir

I received yours of the 10th of August with the commands it carried which shall be performed accordingly and as willingly as if omitted, for I have left nothing unperformed which can hinder me from commencing the first day of the term. I have inserted at the bottom all the particulars which my degree will amount to at Michaelmas but have not made mention of the expence of Lent term, which is much about the same summe, there being no present occasion for it. This is as an impartial account as I could get delivered down to me, for here is nothing (as I am informed) can in probability be avoided, unless it be the Paper Act and how they will proceed upon that is uncertain. The warden of A.S. is now at Exeter in Devon: 'tis reported he will return in 3 weeks time and 'tis now thought there will be 2 vacancies, one of which (by the discourse of the Town) will be filled up with a Nobleman and the other by a Gentleman commoner. Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to all. I am your dutiful son

Robert Wood

	£	s	d
Gown and Cap	4	10	0
University dues	1	4	0
Treating the Batchel:	0	10	0
Library	0	10	0
Scio Gloves ⁵²	0	18	0
Deane	0	10	0
Paper Act	2	0	0
Total Summ	10	2	0

40 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 22 September 1694 (W-HP 94a)*

Oxon: Sept 22d 1694

Honoured Sir

I received both of yours. the first of which had two inclosed in it which I delivered, the latter was annexed to the Pedigree under the Seal of the Office, which I have as yet preserved by me, for the Copy you sent me is now accepted. The mistake was on Mr Whiting's side who had seen it and told one of the Fellows of A. S. that t'was only a Copy transcribed from the Pedigree under

⁵² Probably special gloves for taking his degree. *Scio*: the formal testimony of a member of the faculty for the fitness of a candidate for his degree. *OED*.

the seal not mentioning whom t'was done by, about a day or two after this same Fel: being an Intimate of mine came to my chamber and was desirous to see it, so soon as he had supervised it and found it to be attested by Sir Henry St. George he told me t'was sufficient and that he would deliver it in for me, which accordingly he did, there being nothing of formality in the business. This same person told me he thought t'would be convenient to let them have the sight of the other to avoid all bickerings and Cavils, for t'is his opinion that they will catch at any hold. I can hear of no objections as yet, if they make any I shall be informed by this person of them and then I will acquaint you forthwith.

This Gentleman and 2 or 3 more who have been baffled in the same case as mine is, are resolved to stand my friends to the uttermost, hearing you design to prosecute it. Pray give my duty to my Mother & love to all. I am your dutiful son

Rob: Wood

41 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, London 11 January 1694/5 (W-HP 169a)*

London: January: 11th 1694/5

Honoured Sir

The Translation of the Archbishop⁵³ is deferred (upon account the Royal Seal was not finished) till next Wednesday, which infallibly will be the day, for in assurance of it, there is a piece of paper pasted against Bow Church Wall, which I now hear, is customary 3 days before the solemnity is performed in the Church. The Deane was this week at my Cousin Johnsons,⁵⁴ who told him, he had made a Visit to the Archbishop but had not an opportunity at that time of discoursing with him concerning the affair of A. S. therefore would make him another on purpose, Mr Welham has been with Doctor Oldish's⁵⁵ chambers twice to know whether he had spoken with his Grace and of what force a Querela Nullitatis⁵⁶ would be of, but could meet with him neither a time. The news to day upon the Exchange is of the K. of France's death, but by few given credit to, and also of fifteen ships that were lost at Barbados by a Hurricane. The Wardens of A. S. and Wadham are in Town, the latter of which goes out either on Munday or Tuesday next. If his Grace enters upon business before you come to Town I shall acquaint you according to order. No more at present but my duty to my Mother and love to all I am

Your dutiful Son:

Rob: Wood

42 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 16 February 1694/5 (W-HP 134a)*

Oxon: Feb 16 1694/5

Honoured Sir

I recd yours and have since sent to Mr Loggans to know whether he had heard from the Dr. but he had not, so soon as he did I desired he would give me notice thereof. As for the affronts and aspersions, of the A. S. Gentlemen I am of opinion that I underwent the worst at first appearance, for, I have now only a rubb sometimes from some young Sparks, saying, when they pass by me that is the Gentleman which the A. S. men give out to come off so dull: T'is the opinion of all here that the A.B. must necessarily decide it, it being contrary to their Statute for it ever to lapse in their hands again, I was thinking the other day in reading the News Letters and finding the A.B. with some more of his Function had waited upon the Princess,⁵⁷ that a letter (if it could be procured from her) and if we saw we could not make use of the Appeal, would be of considerable advantage, not so much to desire his favour without it be in competition with Mr.

⁵³ Thomas Tenison, see Biographical index.

⁵⁴ Unidentified.

⁵⁵ 'Welham . . . Oldish', see Biographical index.

⁵⁶ A void action.

⁵⁷ The Princess Anne, see note 14.

Boys⁵⁸ as common justice. Mr. Whiting and others are of opinion here that t'would be very proper for some indifferent person to state the case to this present A.B. so far as the late had proceeded in it, tho' he is not to be guided by his Predecessor. As for the 2 Wiggs I charged, I supposed the other Wigg which you ordered me to send for and not my Brothers, you will receive it as the Monsieur tells me within this fortnight; as for Pocket Money I'll assure you I had little or none when I came into Oxford, I had what I had occasion for upon the road and that was all; so soon as my Bill came I had a supply there, upon account. One of our great Treats was put off the Warden not being in Town, and likewise the receiver of my chamber rent who is one of the Fellows being out of Town; I can make a clear board with £3 7s. 6d. and what you think is requisite for me to spend in half a Quarter for Pocket money, you can as well judge as myself for sometimes it costs me more than others according as I have Visitants, or else I commonly stint myself, I have dealt plainly but very faithfully with you, and had all things gone regularly I should neither have troubled you for money nor with such a tedious letter; but t'is always a Maxim with me first to pay of my debts and then the remainder I can dispose of as I please; when I have less to say I will give you an account how I dispose of a Quarteridge, etc. Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to all I am your dutiful Son

Rob: Wood

43 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 19 February 1694/95 (W-HP 171b)*

Oxon: Feb 19th 1694/95

Honoured Sir

I just now received the news from one of the Candidates that the F. of A.S. was or infallibly would be given to a Friend of the Princess,⁵⁹ some say he is her Page others that he is a Templar, his name is Wentworth;⁶⁰ if it is not already disposed of and there can be access to her Highness, it may put a stop to it. I thought fitting to let you know it because as yet it may not have arrived to your ears; the Post will not give me any longer time to describe this news which at first struck a damp upon, but as it is unwelcome to me so I hope not true. Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to all

I am your
Dutiful Son
Rob: Wood

44 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 9 March 1694/95 (W-HP 169b)*

Oxon: March 9th 1694/5

Honoured Sir

I received yours dated the 7th wherein you mentioned that Dr. Oldish had wrote and would write again as on last Thursday either to Mr Goad⁶¹ or Loggan neither of which as yet hath heard from him at which they seem to wonder upon account I have sent so oft to know, so soon as either of them do they will give me notice thereof; The A. S. Gentlemen are daily in expectation of the instrument, her Majesty being interred, who before she was (as they think) detained the A.B. from passing sentence of condemnation upon sixteen of the Candidates if not the whole

⁵⁸ William Boys, Hart Hall, matric. 4 December, 1688; B.A. 1692; vicar of Witely, Surrey, 1699-1735. *Foster*.

⁵⁹ See notes 14 and 57.

⁶⁰ Peter Wentworth, The Queen's College, matric. 29 April, 1692; equerry to Prince George of Denmark, and later to Queen Anne, King George I and Queen Caroline of Brunswick; d. 10 January, 1736/7. *Foster*. He was never elected to a fellowship of All Souls.

⁶¹ Scroggs Goad, New College, matric. 8 November, 1688; fellow, BCL 1694; Barrister-at-law Inner Temple, 1710; d. 30 September, 1723. *Foster*.

number. I hope the Wigs are come safe to hand, I wrote a letter to Mr Pack at the same time I sent them that they might not fail of being delivered. Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to all I am your dutiful Son

Robert Wood

45 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 18 April 1695 (W-HP 59)*

Oxon: April. 18th (1695)

Yesterday I was admitted *Fellow of A.S.* and took the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy and likewise to observe the statutes then I went to dinner with them afterwards I distributed some money as fees to the Colledge servants, whom I perceived to have Hawks eyes upon me so that I knew their meaning by their gaping, but more properly you'll say by the acuteness of their sight; A little time after some of them asked me to go and drink a bottle of ale with which accordingly I did. Which I suppose was to bring me acquainted. I both dined and supped with them and I find them all to be very civil and complaisant, next week I'll begin to treat and when I have once passed that week I'll fix myself to somewhat of business, you shall receive a particular account of what moneys I have by me and likewise how I dispose of it, which I believe will be a Satisfaction to you and will shew that I have dealt fairly and honestly; Pray give my duty to my Mother and love to all, I am your dutiful Son

R. Wood

46 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford, undated, but after 18 April 1695, and before 24 May. (W-HP55)*

Honoured Sir

I now suppose being pretty well fixed in my new habitation, you will expect some account of my approbation of it, therefore to deal with you as briefly as I can, I altogether fancy I am (as t'were) translated from Purgatory to Paradise, for before my life hung in an æquilibrium, sometimes flattered with great expectations and sometimes wholly in suspense, tossed about from place to place like the Waves and as uncertain of anything as the Wind is fickle, therefore having run through so many difficulties at last to enjoy the eternal bliss (as I think I may proper call it if we can suppose such a thing as Heaven upon earth) becomes a greater pleasure; As for our Colledge t'is unanimously agreed upon to be the best, I think, there is none equivalent to it, for where in both Universities, nay I may boldly say in the Whole World where is there 40 people in one society that live so as that one is not controuled by the other, as is manifest we do. I am of that opinion there is no division amongst the Fellows unless it be at the time of an Election and that only during the time. As for the Warden I exclude him, standing only for a cipher amongst us, he when [he] hath the power in his hand does make use of it which is only at the time of the Election, he is thought by us all to be a scandall [to] the Society, our happiness is we have but little of his company, he hath left his Porter as his deputy to receive Dunns who hath once been his Umbra in Gaol, his Lodgings is a perfect Nunnery there being harboured 3 young Maidens whom perhaps he thinks to impose upon some of the Fellows so as on the one side I have in part related to you the knavery of our poor Warden, on the other I am afraid t'will be a difficult task for me to enumerate the pleasantness of living which attends the Fellows. We take care not to divulge it least we should give occasion to the rest of the World to be our enemies neither can I describe it. If I would t'is like a good thought which we sometimes have but want words to express it, all that I can say, is, we live well and envy no man. For my own part I have nothing which is seemingly unpleasant to me unless it be my Chamber which I can very well bear with in my Chums absence if t'was much worse it ought not to make me [last 2 lines of page illegible and half of top line of reverse cut] . . . wanting t'is that we have not sense enough to know our own happiness; as for our stipend t'is not that we value, neither is it so great as people do imagine; as I am informed take one year with another t'will not exceed 30£ per annum to me while I am Batchelor, not that I endeavour to decry it for I know no reason why I should, t'is our way of living which is so much approved of and so well liked by us. Pray give my Duty to my Mother and love to all I am your

Dutiful Son Robt. Wood

Now I shall give you an account how I expended the money I had by me which was 21£ reckoning

all together, I have received since of Mr White 12⁶² which he accommodated me with at the first word, I was willing to receive it being unwilling to undergo the scandal some of my Predecessors have which have not cleared of their score to this day. The 2 books I mention in my account I could not have at my own Booksellers therefore was obliged to take them up at another place and so pay ready money: I have taken up more at my own Booksellers but shall leave them unpaid for till Quarterday; I have a large catalogue given me but don't think to take them up altogether but Quarterly as I can spare the money, for a few books consume a great summe of money; Those I took up are all useful for me at this time for our disputations and other exercises, which we are not free from tho' t'is generally thought we are. I must have expected to have bought some books whether I had studied the Law or any thing else, for when a man is Batchelour of Arts t'is time for him to fix himself to some study which cannot be done without books. I should be extreme glad if Mr Bland⁶³ could be prevailed with so far as to request that book of Dr Lawson, for I am of opinion the sooner I have it the better that I may apply myself to my studies according to that book or else it may await but Dr Sergeant⁶⁴ hath now registered my instrument and I have got it from him and sent it by Peter Waldo⁶⁵ to my Cousin Welham to have it registered at the Herald's Office. You have an impartial and true account of everything but my Law Supper, which I shall not give till the 24th of May, the expence I shall be at Dr Irish (without whose advice I do nothing in that nature) informs me will cost 9[£] or 10[£] for I must treat all the Officers and the Professor of the University and what strangers he please shall accompany him, and then the number and charge . . . [two lines missing, and following sheet, after further explanation of the account has been cut and page at right hand margin turned in and stuck for about 12 lines] . . . my Victuals . . . but the Manciple went out of Town but expecting to pay him forthwith I could not write time enough to you therefore went to Mr White there is nothing left unpaid now but what we had out of the Buttery which is not customary to pay previous. The Wardens man I must give 10s. to at the time I give a bond of 40[£] to the Warden that I will not anyways damage the Colledge; t'is a great summe of money I have paid and must pay which would have been pretty easy had there been 4 or 5 of us to have undergone it but as t'is I am bound now to see if you will say perhaps that 5[£] 12s. is a great deal of money for victuals but if you had seen our company you would not have thought it so, for there was 29 of us in company besides spungers, some little remains of that as all the money I have in my Pocket which I can't well be without here.

Paid during my residence
at Wadham

At All Souls

at Wadham				£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Battles	2	17	0	Butler	1	5	0			
Decre[m]en[ts]	0	6	0	The other Servants	1	8	6			
Chamber rent	0	17	6	House for a Plate	2	0	0			
Bedmak. and Laundress		13	0	Surplis	2	15	6			
Barber	0	4	0	2 Books	0	8	6			
Shoemaker	0	7	6	Dr Sergeant	0	13	0			
Gave to the servants	0	10	0	Ward. Man whom I must give	0	10	0			
				Knifes, Forks, Napkins etc.	0	7	0			
Total	Summe	5	15	0	Victuals in the Kitchen	5	13	0		
				Wine for the Treat I have given to the A.S. and to the Wadham men				7	12	0
					Total Summe	22	12	6		
						£	s.	d.		
					Both Summes	28	7	6		

⁶² See notes 11 and 32.

⁶³ Lancelot Bland, serv., The Queen's College, matric. 11 April, 1660; B.A. 1664; M.A. 28 January, 1667/8; fellow of Queen's; presented to the living of Tingewick, Bucks. in 1676, succeeding Stephen Penton, q.v. when he became Principal of St. Edmund Hall. *Magrath*, ii, 40, 37.

⁶⁴ Thomas Sergeant, Christ Church, matric. 18 April, 1651; fellow of All Souls 1656; B.A. 10 March, 1656/7; M.A. 6 July, 1658; BCL 16 November, 1661; DCL 19 June, 1666; student of Gray's Inn, 1655. Died October or November 1708 aged 75, buried in the College Chapel. *Foster*.

⁶⁵ Peter Waldo, fellow of Wadham, son of Daniel of Harrow-on-the-Hill, matric. 18 March, 1688/9 aged 17; B.A. from Wadham College 1692, Chaplain 1694; M.A. 1695 (incorp. Cambridge, 1706), B and DD All Souls 1720; Rector Aston Clinton, 1716 till his death in January 1745/6 where he was buried, *Gardiner*, i. 364.

47 *Stephen Penton to Thomas Wood from Wath, near Ripon, 23 May [16]95 (W-HP 60b)*

[. . .]arest Sir

If I were now farr gon in Courtship, and my Mistress as kind as I could wish, I could not read a letter from her with more Delight than I read your last, which brought the newes of an Happy Conclusion of an Affaire, no man in England could have brought about but Mr. Wood: And the speedy notice of it to mee was infinitely obligeing because it implyes your Opinion of mee that I Love and wish well to your Dear Family. I had written an Answer befor, but that I thought to have been with you soon after it. I came from Jervaux yesterday where Mr. Purchase⁶⁶ visited mee and Invited us all to a Kind treate and great Civilitie which I desire you to take notice of to Him it being wholly owing to my Acquaintance at Littleton. Dearest Sir may every thing that you and Every one of you undertake prosper as well as this last Adventure and may you all bee as Happy as can bee wished by

your most Affectionate
Stephen Penton

Wath, May 23 [16]95
nr. Ripon My Dutie and Respects

48 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 18 June 1695 (W-HP 144)*

Oxon June 18 1695

Honoured Sir

On last Saturday night I put a period to my Lordship and could wish I had likewise to the expence but it being in my power to accomplish it no other way than by flying to that haven, which I have for these 3 months last past pestered and weather beaten, I therefore once more prick the same vein again, which one would judge having been tampered with so oft, that you were in a feaver, which if so I must necessarily be the cause of it and consequently should make it my endeavour to allay it, which by all the medicines I can recollect, none can prove more effectual than the contrary remedy and that you may have an infallible cure and no relapse, I promise to run the same course of life as formerly, which without doubt may give you ease. I send this my last account (no otherwise than a Physician prescribes to his Patient a Purge to carry of the remaining filth) to be filed, that what hath been already performed, might not be deficient or imperfect. I am now prepared to make a general Thanksgiving and shall demonstrate to you in my next how far I am obliged to you in particular for your last favours. If I should endeavour to enumerate all others, I should undertake as difficult a task as finding out the Philosophers stone. As for my account t'is almost as great as the last, the number being almost as large, for in Treats all Officers are always included, and then the remaining number being but small, its usual to send them a dish or two of meat together with some wine, the reason of not inviting them together with the rest is, because 1st t'would break a custom and would be very expensive to those that come in just at the Election. [the page has been torn and partly stuck down, words and a line missing] . . . a full house. The whole number of [. . .]Account runs thus

	£	s	d	
[. . .]	4	17	0	[Victuals added in pencil]
Wine	3	2	0	
Knives Napkins etc.	0	7	0	
	8	6	0	

Nothing else is remaining but 10s. which is to be paid to the Wardens Man. Mr Lloyd I have been a little conversant with lately and have got some instructions from him relating to the Civil Law both as to books and a method how to use them and likewise his advice was to keep constantly to the Court which I have hitherto daily done and shall persevere in so doing for a

⁶⁶ Probably Ben Purchas, agent to Thomas Wood in Yorkshire.

man can no more be a Lawyer without the practical par[t] than a Parson can be a good Divine without frequenting the Pulpit.
[remainder of page stuck and signature is missing]

49 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 4 July 1695 (W-HP 154a)*

Oxon: July 4th 1695

Honoured Sir

As for the task I have undertook I think it does require a much neater style and much more Rhetorick than my pen can set forth, but in as much as that comes short, I do so far acknowledge your kindness to be the greater therefore not to be tedious by way of introduction, my design is to enumerate your great toil and labour, supposing your expence to be adjoined to it and then from the foregoing premises I shall draw a conclusion:

In the first place therefore I am of the opinion you was endowed with more than ordinary presence of mind to engage yourself in a work which so soon as you had entered upon you could not be ignorant but that you must labour under great difficulty to be ever in hopes to accomplish your design, and then to have no further grounds to go upon but barely the goodness of your cause, which is more than any man now adays is willing to trust to, for as every years Almanack tells us *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*,⁶⁷ which you found at the first onset also to be very true yet that repulse did not put a stop to your proceedings, you still rode with your Topsails up and at last cast anchor at a haven where Equity and Justice was not wholly banished the land; but no sooner had you got to shore and brought your hopes to somewhat of perfection but untimely death was the dissolution of all, which at that very time I could judge to be nothing else but to try your patience, for we see dayly that the good are afflicted no less in this World than the wicked. After all this and much more than I shall relate, you was not dispirited but once more put out to sea, and at last after being tossed about this way and that way and having endured the pinching cold of a long winter, met with a calm and brought your commodity safe to land, which was quite contrary to my expectations, tho' no less unwilling to have the ship launched a third time than you, that I might redeem the credit I lost in your first engagement, in which if we had not at length succeeded in it would have been wholly and that justly imputed to my misconduct, there being neither pains nor expence spared on your side, so that the management of the whole affair depended on my literature, which no one but yourself at last would have relied upon, my reputation being so bespattered but now all being happily finished by your (as I may say) inexhaustible treasure and likewise indefatigable labour which you was always unaccustomed to, and therefore your kindness much more obliging: I shall conclude with these words only, I do return you my most hearty thanks for all the toil and pains you have undergone and for passing through those Labrynth which I thought inextricable, in recompence for which labour if I don't endeavour to improve my self to my own credit and your satisfaction I may not unjustly be judged a person unworthy of any favour; I will proceed no further least by my impotent Eloquence I should seem more to detract from your goodness than fully to express it, only desiring you to give my duty to my Mother and love to all and likewise a continuance of your blessing so I rest your Dutiful son

Robt. Wood

I received both yours and Mr Packs for which I return you thanks, I hope I shall manage it so prudently as till Quarter day next, tho' I already have paid 4£ for books which I could not be without. As for Battles I have none to pay for neither shall we come to any account till towards Christmas. For this week last past I have been intolerably troubled with the Pyles which I had likewise about 3 months ago, but not so uneasy as they have been, I find them to abate very much now by the last ointment which was given me.

50 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 20 July 1695 (W-HP 76)*

Oxon July 20th [16](95)

Honoured Sir

I received yours and went the next day and gave orders concerning your wig and that there

⁶⁷ Quoted from *The Epigrams* of John Owen (1560?-1622).

might be no mistake showed him that part of your Letter which related thereto, he promised, t'should be delivered to me by next Tuesday come fortnight, by the latter part of which week (I believe) it may come to your hands.

I am glad to find you entertain such an opinion of me as not to question but that I shall improve those signal kindnesses you have bestowed on me to the best advantage, which if I don't endeavour to do, I cannot account myself otherwise than ungrateful for I think I have more than an ordinary obligation upon me to pursue my studies, in the first place I myself cannot suppose that you should so long disturb your own ease, barely for nothing else but my pleasure and then again my nature was always contrary to that of Spaniels whom the more they are beat the more willing they are to obey, I am like some School-Boys, who are always more tractable, after they have received praise and commendation from their Masters, than after continual beating which too many Masters make use of, and as one would judge, more to exercise their own bodies than for the good of the child, which certainly can never agree well with young Lads, for I myself well know, when I have stood in fear of my Master, I could not utter those lines which I had before never so perfect; therefore as I have found great encouragement, so I shall make it my business to give you all the satisfaction I am able at the last, that you may not be disappointed in your expectation. Dr. Irish goes some time next week to Sir Onslow's in Surry and will wait on you if he can with convenience, our Warden is expected home on Munday night, so with my Duty to my Mother and love to all I rest your dutiful son

Robt. Wood

51 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 7 September, 1695 (W-HP 84)*

Oxon: Septemb. 7th [16]95

Honoured Sir

I accidentally the other day met with the copy of verses⁶⁸ you enquired after, during the time you was in Oxford which I have here subscribed. The Author of them was one Mr. Walrond⁶⁹ who is at this time fellow of our Society, his design by them was this, he had oft discoursed with his friend Dr. Crosswight (by wai of advice) concerning his not taking the Oaths, but finding he could never dissuade him from thence by the common way of Arguing, thought no way more probable to convince him than by a Logical proof, his reason for that was because he is a Queens Coll. man, all of which are so accustomed to Aristotle, that they make use of his terms in common conversation.

If as the Schoolmen do believe
Two Neg's make one Affirmative
Why, in the name of the Prædicaments
And all their Analytick sense
May not as well two Affirmations
In their place too become Negations
Hoc dato et concessio thus I
In Baralipon blunderbuss you

He that to two Kings takes an Oath
Does by the last absolve them both
For both the Oaths are Affirmations
And t'is owned they are Negations
Thus scientifically you see
The more you are bound the more you'r free
So juglers when they tie one knot more
Untie the knot they tied before.

The Small Pox remains still very thick about Town and since my last to my Mother there is two

⁶⁸ Another version of this poem is copied in Bodl. MS Eng. Poet. d 53 74; its authorship there is unascrcribed.

⁶⁹ John Walrond, son of Thomas, of Woolfardisworthy, Devon, gent.; Exeter College, matric. 22 March, 1672/3 aged 17; fellow of All Souls 1676-1703; B.A. 6 February, 1676/7; M.A. 1680; Proctor 1686, practised physic at Exeter, *Foster*.

of Wadham⁷⁰ dead of the same disease together with the Purples which has caused that house to be very thin at this present, and which for the same reason they are afraid will be for the future. I have received orders from the Subwarden⁷¹ to make a Speech against All Souls day in commemoration of our Founder, which I have very nigh finished thinking it not so convenient to drive things of till the last, I am well assured there will be a great company of Auditors, and therefore have taken particular care in what I have already done and shall for the remainder. 'Twas not my turn to have spoken it, but some say t'is favour, but I think to the contrary considering the person that imposed it upon me. I shall be the fourth man that ever undertook it, there's no gratuity as at other Colledges. Our Warden was the Upstarter of it and Mr Lloyd the first that ever spoke it, I do think to shew it to some friend this week or the next, that I may not be any ways backward. So with my duty to my Mother and love to all

I am
Your Dutiful Son
Robt. Wood

52 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 5 February 1695/6 (W-HP 164a)*

Oxon Feb 5th [16]95/6

Honoured Sir

I received a letter from Mr Birchall⁷² on Sunday night together with a Bill, for which I return you thanks and likewise for all things else during my being at home which was so pleasing and diverting to me that I found no small reluctance to reduce myself to my former course of life, for the thoughts of Hunting and the matrimonial mirth called dancing together with so good company (which I was unaccustomed to and therefore caused the greater delight) did not easily slip out of my mind. Well but now the scene is changed and I am just as it were in another World, for as by day the noise of dogs was my recreation, now t'is chiefly with dead men and instead of those happy minutes of the night which I spent in the enjoyment of the company of the sweet Ladies from whose mouths and lips I found nothing to drop but charming words or somewhat more ravishing; is now with your morose Philosophers who contend only concerning the Quiddity and Quoddity of things and by whose discourse you will become little the wiser after an hours dispute, and this certainly would cause no small alteration to as thinking a man as Mr Penton upon this subject therefore I'll dwell no longer upon it, for fear the thoughts of it should cause a relapse upon me again. So with my duty to my Mother and many thanks for the Bacon and tongues etc she was pleased to bestow upon me, and with which I made a great many friends and my love to my Brother and Sister, I am your dutiful Son

Robt. Wood

53 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 5 August 1696 (W-HP 160a)*

Oxon August 5th [16]96

Honoured Sir

I come now according to my Monthly practice to acquaint you of my welfare, which I think myself obliged to do tho' I say no more. Our Mother Oxford for her part yields the same fruits at all seasons of the year, her common entertainment is either a little crabbed Logick to mump upon or the husky Mathematicks enough to choak one, if she affords any Variety t'is a mess of Politicks which is as great a rarity to a profound and cloistered Aristotelian as a dish of Peas to his Majesty at Christmas, so that let the rest of the World go as t'will, Oxford is still the same. I

⁷⁰ The Wadham victims were Samuel Bishop, fellow, and Richard Gilbert, undergraduate, *Gardiner*, i, 349, 386.

⁷¹ Thomas Creech, Wadham College, admitted Lent Term 1675; fellow of All Souls 1683-1700; Subwarden of All Souls, 1695; translator of Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, Ibid. 313.

⁷² Mr Birchall, probably another agent or partner of Thomas Wood, succeeding John Pack, q.v.

received a Letter from my Bro. Tom.⁷³ who acquainted me he was removed into the 5th form, of which I wished him joy. He desired some Books of me which accordingly I sent and gave him great encouragement to pursue his studies telling him what a pleasant place Oxford is. Dr Irish⁷⁴ who is now at Sir Richard Onslow's told me when he left us he would wait upon you before he returned, so desiring my duty may be presented to my Mother and love to the rest I am your dutiful Son Robt. Wood.

54 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 3 June 1697 (W-HP 88)*

Oxon: June: 3d 1697

Honoured Sir

I was with Monsieur the Wig-Maker the other day who told me he had got some hair on the pipes (according to the orders I gave him when I came out of the Countrey last) for you which he is willing to know, when you would be pleased to have made up into a Wig. I received a letter the other day from Dr. Lawson who acquainted me that a Kinsman of his would appear as a Candidate at our next Election for a Fellowship and that he would have his Grace's recommendation I returned him a very complaisant Letter and informed him that there was a Found: Kins: would stand, whom I was well assur'd both his Grace and himself would think me oblig'd to vote for if he answer'd the intent of the Statutes, but if there should be any further room for favour I told him I should be very glad to court any opportunity whereby I might anything of an acknow[ledgeme]nt for those signal favours he was pleas'd to shew me; so desir[. . .] duty may be given to my Mother and love to the rest.

I am your very dutiful Son
Robt. Wood

55 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 13 September, 1697 (W-HP 166a)*

Oxon 7ber 13th [16]97

Honoured Sir

I am come now to return you thanks for all favours received during my residence at Littleton and to acquaint you that on Thursday the eighth between 4 and 5 in the evening I got safe to Oxon, which place I no sooner arrived at but I heard the welcome news of the promotion of several friends, one of which was Mr Whiting, whom the Bishop of Hereford⁷⁵ has bestowed a Parsonage upon, value 200£ per annum, another was one Mr Mews⁷⁶ of our own Society who is preferred to the Chancellourship of Winchester and likewise two other intimate acquaintance to very good Church Benefices; here is a Feaver runs about the Town which proves very mortal and particularly to Queens Coll. Fellows there having been 3 of that House taken of very lately; I find all people hawking after news here and as desirous of a Peace as they are in Middx, which that we may in a short time enjoy is the hearty wish of your dutiful Son

Robt. Wood

My duty to My Mother and love to the rest.

56 *Robert Wood to his father Thomas, Oxford 2 October 1697 (W-HP 176b)*

Oxon: 8ber 2nd [16]97

Honoured Sir,

Since the writing of my last I have spoke with my Names sake⁷⁷ of New Coll concerning a Choristers place which he would readily have served me in, had the Lad been capable of it,

⁷³ Thomas Wood (1681–1707) educated at Eton and Wadham, youngest brother of Edward and Robert.

⁷⁴ Dr. Irish seems to have made an annual visit to Sir Richard Onslow, see Biographical index.

⁷⁵ Gilbert Ironside, see Biographical Index.

⁷⁶ Peter Mews (knighted 12 July, 1712) son of John of London Esq., St. John's College, matric. 31 May, 1688, aged 16; fellow of All Souls 1691, BCL All Souls 1695; of Hinton Admiral Hants; Chancellor of Winchester 1698; M.P. Christchurch, Hants. in 4 Parliaments from 1710 to his death, 19 March 1725/6, *Foster*.

⁷⁷ Benjamin Wood, son of Christopher of Upton, Berks., New College, matric. 23 September, 1685, aged 17; BCL 1693. *Foster*.

which I find he is not, none being admitted there above 9 or 10 years of age and as I remember Mr Harwood told me that he was 14: Here has been great rejoicing for the Peace⁷⁸ and great preparations are likewise now making in order to a Mock Act, which our Vice Can: gives out he will have performed on the Thanksgiving day; Dodwell,⁷⁹ Crosswight and the rest of our Jacobites give no credit to the news of a Peace, they were at first of opinion and do still persist in it, that Prior⁸⁰ came over both times only with a fine blank piece of Dutch paper [to] delude the World! Mr Chicheley⁸¹ has now deliver'd in his Pedigree, which is much questioned, it having been never heard of before, that the sheriff had a Son whom he says in his Pedigree was Chamberlain of London and from whom he descends in a direct line, if you are pleased to be further satisfied as to his Pedigree, Ile send you a Copy of it; the College have applied themselves to Mr Clarke⁸² and Dr. Lloyd to consult the Heralds Office the former of which I hear has been employ'd upon the like occasion before; Monsieur has promis'd me that you shall have your Wig by the latter end of this Month; So with my duty to my Mother and love to the rest. I am your dutiful Son

Robt Wood

- 57 *Robert Wood to his father, Thomas* [Paper has been cut at top of page, probably June 1719, see 58] (*W-HP* 176a)

This comes to pay my duty and enquire after your health, which I had done in person but that the weather is so very uncertain and catching. To morrow I am for London and don't know but that I may go in the Even. to my Nephew Morgan⁸³ where I think to spend 2 or 3 days; I believe, Sir, if you design to make any present to All Souls Coll. the sooner it be done the better t'will be taken, because I've bin told by some of the College that the Benefactions come in very slowly; with my love to my Sisters

I am Honoured Sir
Your very dutiful Son
R. Wood

- 58 *Robert Wood to someone at All Souls, Richmond 19 June 1719* (*W-HP* 126)

Richmond. June 19th 1719

Dear Sir

The last time I wrote to Mr Warden of All Souls⁸⁴, I acquainted him I was not unmindful of their building; you may let the College know I have 100£ for em' which I desire you will be pleas'd to receive for their use;

As I presume all their benefactions are entred in a Book⁸⁵, so I hope they will not refuse to enter this after the following manner:

Thomas Wood of Littleton in Com. Middsx. and ejus familia Consanguinei Fundatoris 100£

I am
your most humble Servant
R. Wood

⁷⁸ The conclusion of the War of the League of Augsburg, *Ogg*, 437-8.

⁷⁹ Henry Dodwell, son of William of Dublin gent.; born in Dublin October 1641, died at Shottesbrook, Oxon., 7 June, 1711; incorp. 10 May, 1688, aged 46 from Hart Hall; fellow of Trinity College Dublin 1682; Camden Professor of History 1688 until deprived in 1691. *DNB*.

⁸⁰ Matthew Prior (1664-1721) son of George, a joiner of Somerset; Admitted pens. St. John's College Cambridge 2 April, 1683; poet and diplomatist; Secretary to the Ambassador at the Hague 1690. *DNB*.

⁸¹ John Chicheley, younger son of John of London, Kt., Christ Church matric. 14 March, 1694/5 aged 16; fellow of All Souls 1697-1703; barrister-at-law, Middle Temple, 1701. *Foster*.

⁸² George Clarke, son of William of London, Kt., Brasenose College, B.A. 1679; fellow of All Souls 1680-1736; M.A. 1683; BCL 1686; DCL 1708; Judge advocate 1684-1705; Secretary at War 1692-1704; Lord of the Admiralty; M.P. Winchelsea 1702-05, Oxford University 1685-7 (though he never sat) and December 1717 until his death 22 October, 1736. *DNB*.

⁸³ Richard Morgan, son of Dorothy (née Wood) and Richard Morgan; admitted Middle Temple 19 January, 1712/13; 'Richard Morgan son and heir of R. Morgan of Littleton Middx. Esq.', *Middle Temple Register*.

⁸⁴ Bernard Gardiner, Warden of All Souls 1702-26. Grant Robertson, *All Souls College*, (1899), 156.

⁸⁵ 'Dedit Robertus Wood, LLD, Centum Libras Fundatoris Consanguineus, admissus anno 1695': All Souls Donors' Register, 24 & 26.

Biographical Index

This index covers names of persons mentioned more than once. Numbers in bold type at the ends of entries relate to the serial numbers of the letters.

- 'ARCHBISHOP', Thomas Tenison; translated from Lincoln to Canterbury, 6 December 1694; died 14 December, 1715, *DNB* (always referred to as 'Archbishop'). **41, 42, 44.**
- 'CLARGIS', CLARGES, Sir Thomas, Kt., Wadham College, matric. 4 January, 1688/9; Doctor of Medicine; knighted 8 May, 1660; Muster Master General; M.P. Ross & Cromarty, etc., from 1656; M.P. Oxford University from 1689 until his death, 4 October 1695, *DNB*. **31, 32.**
- 'CLARGIS', CLARGES, Sir Walter, son of Thomas above; Merton College, matric. 3 February 1670/1; created baronet 30 October, 1674; M.P. Colchester, etc., from 1679 to 1702; died March 1705/6, Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, hereafter abbreviated *Foster*. **31, 32.**
- 'CROSSWIGHT', CROSTHWAITE, Thomas, The Queen's College, ser. matric. 10 March, 1656/7; B.A. 25 February 1660/1; M.A. 1664; (incorp. Cambridge 1671); proctor 1672; B.D. 1677; D.D. 1684 Principal of St. Edmund Hall, 1684-1685, was ousted thence for several reasons. Magrath, *History of The Queen's College*, ii, 39, 51, 114, 307 (hereafter abbreviated *Magrath*). **51, 56.**
- DUNSTER, Thomas, son of William of Elmston Som., Wadham College, matric. 27 March, 1672/3; M.A. 1679; fellow 1681; proctor 1688; B.D. 1689; D.D. 1690; Rector of Begbroke, Oxon., 1686, of Marsh Gibbon, Bucks., 1698 and of Holton, Oxon., 1703; Warden of his College, 1689 until his death, 17 May, 1719; Gardiner, *Register of Wadham College*, i, 298, hereafter abbreviated *Gardiner*. **37, 42.**
- ESCOT, Daniel (sometimes spelt Estcott), Wadham College matric. pleb., 24 October, 1645; fellow 1654; Rector of Dunchideock and Canon of Exeter; Archdeacon 1665; Licence 26 February, 1665/6 to marry Mary Master of Langdon Abbey, Kent, died 1668, buried Exeter Cathedral, *Gardiner*, i, 157. **1, 3.**
- FINCH, Leopold (1663-1703) born Constantinople, son of Heneage Finch, Earl of Winchelsea; Christ Church, matric. 10 April, 1679, aged 16; M.A. 1685; B.D. 27 February, 1693/4 (as Hon. Leopold William); fellow of All Souls, 1682; Warden, 1686 until his death on 14 November, 1702, *DNB*. (always referred to as 'Warden' in the letters). **37, 39, 41, 46, 50, 51.**
- HARWOOD, Dr. Thomas, son of Thomas of London, gent., University College, matric. 21 May, 1680, aged 16; B.A. 22 January, 1683/4; M.A. from Lincoln College 1686; B & D.D. 1714; Rector of Littleton, Middx., 1690-1744; licence 16 September, 1698 to marry Agnes Strong of St. Lawrence Jewry, widow; died 13 November, 1744, aged 81, buried at Littleton. *Foster*. **25, 56.**
- IRISH, John, St. Edmund Hall, matric. 17 December, 1663 aged 15; BCL 1671; fellow of All Souls, DCL 1677; assessor of the Vice-Chancellor's Court, October 1708; died 3 August 1728 aged 80, buried in the College Chapel. *Foster*. **46, 50, 53.**
- IRONSIDE, Gilbert of Steepleton, Dorset, Wadham College, matric. 14 November, 1650; Warden of Wadham College, 1665-89; Vice Chancellor, 1687-89; Bishop of Bristol, 1689, Bishop of Hereford, 1691 until his death, 27 August, 1701, *Gardiner*, i, 184. **11, 12, 41, 55.**
- LATTON, William (1653-?1695) Wadham College, matric. July 1670; fellow 1675; M.A. 1676 (incorp. Cambridge 1680); student of Gray's Inn 1679; Captain of Scholars at the time of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, 1685, *Gardiner*, i, 285. **31, 32.**

- LAWSON, William, Dr., The Queen's College, pleb. matric. 5 December, 1671 aged 20; perhaps Rector of Southwick, Sussex, 1679, *Foster*. **46, 54.**
- LLOYD, Nathaniel, Dr. (1669-1745), Trinity College, matric. April 1685; fellow of All Souls 1689; BCL 1691, DCL 1696; Admiralty advocate 1704-14; King's advocate 1715-27; knighted 29 May, 1710; Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1710-1735; Vice-Chancellor 1710; died at Sunbury, 30 March, 1710/1. *DNB*. **48, 51, 56.**
- LOGGAN, John, son of David of Oxford City, gent.; Trinity College, matric. 20 August, 1688; demy Magdalen College, 1689-1700; later fellow 1700-17; Bloxham, *Register of Presidents, Fellows and Demies, of St. Mary Magdalen College*, vi, 75. **42, 44.**
- MICHEL (also MITCHEL), John, son of John of Richmond, Surrey, Esq.; The Queen's College, matric. 1 June, 1676, aged 15; founded 8 fellowships, 4 scholarships, and 4 exhibitions at Queen's; M.P. Sandwich 1698-1700, April-November, 1701, 1702-5, April-July 1713 and 1713-15. *Magrath*, ii, 61, 105. **31, 32.**
- 'OLDISH', OLDYS, Dr. William (d. 1708) New College subs. December 1655; fellow, 1655-71. Doctors' Commons 1670; advocate for Office of Lord High Admiral of England and to the Lords of the Prizes; Chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln. *DNB*. **41, 42.**
- ONSLow, Sir Richard, eldest son of Arthur of West Clandon, Surrey; St. Edmund Hall, matric. 17 June, 1671, aged 16; 2nd Bart., 1688; student of the Inner Temple, 1674; M.P. Guildford in 4 parliaments 1678-81, and 1685-7, Surrey in 11 parliaments, 1689-1710, and 1713, until created Baron Onslow 25 June, 1716; M.P. St. Mawes 1710-1713; Speaker, 1708; Chancellor of Exchequer 1715; died 5 December, 1717. *DNB*. **50, 53.**
- PACK, John (d. 1695) a rope maker; friend of the Wood family and agent and business partner to Alderman Edward Wood, and his son Thomas. **7, 11, 22, 25, 44, 49.**
- PENTON, Stephen (1639-1706) b. Winchester; scholar of Winchester College; New College, matric. 1659; Rector of Tingewick, Bucks., 1670-76; Chaplain to Robert Bruce, Earl of Ailesbury 1671; Principal of St. Edmund Hall 1675-84; raised money for building the Chapel and Library; Rector of Glympton and Lecturer of Churchill, Oxon., 1684-93; on the nomination of the Earl of Ailesbury, appointed to the living of Wath, near Ripon, Yorks., September 1693; collated on 28 May, 1701 to the 3rd prebendal stall at Ripon, holding both appointments till his death. *DNB*. **5, 6, 13 to 16, 21, 23, 27, 29, 33, 36, 38, 47.**
- ST. GEORGE, Sir Henry (1625-1715), the younger; Richmond Herald, 18 June, 1660; Norroy King of Arms, 27 April, 1677; Clarenceux King of Arms, 25 January, 1678/9; Garter King of Arms, 26 April, 1703. *DNB*. **34, 35, 40.**
- TENISON, see Archbishop, q.v. **41, 42, 44.**
- 'TUTOR', see Charles Whiting, q.v. **7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 28, 31, 38, 40, 42, 55.**
- THURKETTLE, Samuel, (sometimes Thorkittle) (1646-1690/1) b. Kelvedon, Essex, son of Robert Thurkettle and Abigail Hawes. pens. Christ's College, Cambridge, June 1663, aged 17; ordained deacon, Ely, September 24, 1670, priest, Peterborough, 18 June, 1671; Rector of Littleton, Middx., 1673-1690/1. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, hereafter abbreviated *Venn*. He was a cousin of the Woods and also of Mr. Boyer (Bowyer) q.v. He was a non-Juror. **6 to 14, 17, 18.**
- WARDEN, see Finch, **37, 39, 41, 46, 50, 51.**
- WELHAM, Thomas, Deputy Register, Prerogative Office; Cousin of Mrs. Thomas Wood, father of Thomas (Wadham College, matric. 19 October, 1693), cf. Squibb, *Doctors' Commons*, 186. **34, 35, 41, 46.**
- WHITING, Charles (1661-1711); Hart Hall, pleb. matric., 1677; scholar of Wadham, 1678; fellow 1686; Lecturer St. Martin's, Carfax; Chaplain to Dr. Ironside, Bishop of

- Bristol, q.v.; Prebendary of Hereford, 1694; Rector of Ross-on-Wye, 1699–1711, buried at Ross. *Gardiner*, i, 321. Tutor to Edward and Robert Wood at Wadham. **7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 28, 31, 38, 40, 42, 55.**
- WOOD, Edward (1604–1666/7); the eldest son of Nicholas Wood and Anne Ferrou of Gressenhall, Norfolk; freedom of the Grocers' Company, 1646; 1657 elected Alderman for Billingsgate Ward. He owned several ships and traded in sugar and cotton wool. His wife, Susannah Harvey, died in 1652. He moved from London to Littleton in 1660. He died 25 February, 1666/7 and was buried at St. Dunstan's in the East, 20 March, 1666/7. Beaven, *The Aldermen of the City of London*, i, 30, 339. See Introduction and **1, 2, 3.**
- WOOD, Edward (1670–1743), eldest son of Thomas Wood of Littleton and his wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Robert Dicer, of Hackney; he was educated at Eton c. 1683–88; Wadham College, matric. November 1688; he married in November 1695, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Henry Bridger of Guildford. *Gardiner*, i, 357; Crisp, *Visitation of England & Wales*, notes v, 89. **6 to 18, 21, 28, 31, 32.**
- WOOD, Robert (1672–1738), 2nd son of Thomas Wood, q.v.; at Eton c. 1685–90; Wadham College, matric. 5 March, 1690/1; B.A. 1694; admitted to All Souls, April, 1695 as Founder's kinsman; BCL 3 February, 1699/1700; fellow of All Souls 1700; DCL 1702; Doctors' Commons, 1703; an official of the Archdeaconry of Colchester; director of the South Sea Company; he married 1) Ellinor daughter of Thomas Smith, 15 December, 1702; 2) Jane, daughter of Samuel Heaton, 28 May, 1720; a son died in infancy, there were four daughters; his wife died in July 1767; *Stemmata Chicheleana*, (1765), table 23; *Gardiner*, i, 369; Squibb, *Doctors' Commons*, 186. **19, 20, 22 to 27, 29, 37 to 46, 48 to 58.**
- WOOD, Thomas (1641–1724), of Littleton, Middx., Ranger of Hampton Court; member of the East India Company; Wadham College, matric. October 1659; he was the only surviving child of Alderman Edward Wood, q.v.; *Gardiner*, i, 320. He was the recipient of all the letters in this selection, except, **1, 3** and **57**; and **2** and **5** which he wrote.

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