

MINT01628

Author: Isaac Newton

Source: MINT 15/17/467, National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, UK

<1r>

S^r Unidentified's letter to the L.^d High Treasurer June 15.th 1702

My Lord.

Haveing for some time observed that diverse false Guineas and counterfeit Crown peices & $\frac{1}{2}$ Crowns, were put forwards in payments & being Sencible of the ill consequences to the publike, therefrom, I apply'd my selfe with all diligence to detect the Artifixers, and their corespondents in that mischievous Trade and haveing (my L.^d) made use of proper persons for such Intelligence I have so far succeded in the Discovery, as to app^{re}hend and co^mit to Durham Goale, two notable Artists, Unidentified and Unidentified, & haveing caused them to be strictly searched, some papers concerning the mixing Metalls for counterfeiting Gold and Silver were found in private pockets about 'em, as also 4. bad Crown peices in Unidentified's Stockes 'twixt that and his foot.

On Examination of Unidentified he confest (my Lord) where some Instruments for Coyning were hid, which I caused to be Seiz'd, & have now by me, a Dye or Stany for Guineas, and Some Stamps for the Silver coyn, with some peices of MixtMetall, and many Instruments for impressing Letters, the Arms of Eng^{lnd} &c.^t and indeed my Lord they are borh so conscious of their Guilt that they offer to discover all they know if they might but hope for any punishment less than that of death. There are my L.^d two Witnesses against em <1v> as to the fact of Coyning Unidentified the former my Lord came in voluntarily on the Encouragement of the Late Act of Parliament, has made a very large discovery and pursuant thereunto, has been very faithfull and dilig^{ent}, in the App^{re}hending divers Coyners, and Utterers of their false moneys, in the Counties of Durham, Yorksh Westmorl.d & Northumberld (as your Lordship will find by the inclosed Information, which mentioning some facts Subsequent to the date thereof, your Lordship I hope will Excuse on my Intention to give your Lordship a further Account in a short time, haveing this day sent him into Lancashire to app^{re}hend (if possible) the cheife Artificer Button alias Broadley mentioned in his Information as for Unidentified the other Evidence, he was committ'd last year by me to Durham Goale, for uttering bad money, he was convict thereof last Assises and fin'd 100[£] for which he hath layn in that prison ever Since. And now my Lord he begs to be admitted to Serve her Majesty in discovering and Evidencing all he knows.

I have reason my L.^d to beleive that neither of these Unidentified Thô they have been concern'd in Uttering bad moneys, have any Skill in counterfeiting it. And must not o^mit to represent to your Lordship that Will Robson whose Information I likewise transmitt, was the first that gave me intimation of this matter, and is I beleive as unskilfull as the Unidentified are. I would not trouble your Lordship with a particular account of all those, who, on suspicion I have bound ov^{er} to answer at York & Durham Assises, but hope I may assure your Lordship I shall not be wanting to discharge my duty in this this concern, and have the like confidence that those I have thought proper to imploy in this Service may receive Encouragement as they shall appear to deserve it . Upon the whole Matter my L.^d thô I dare scarce p^{re}sume to intimate my poor thoughts, yet I humbly conceive, if my L.^{ds} the Judges that come this Circuit may receive your Lordships Instructions on this Occasion, I doubt not these Northern Counties, may in a great measure be freed from that dang'rous Evill, which was like to over Spread'em I am Sencible my Lord, I have drawn out this letter to, too great a

length, and have not Room for the distance of respect, wherewith I shud subscribe my selfe. My Lord your
Lordships most obliged hum^{ble} Servant Will Bowes.
