

From Constantine John Phipps, 2nd Baron Mulgrave

[135]

Mulgrave Hall

17 September 1774

My Dear Banks

I was very glad to find by your Letter that you are well: my uncle had wrote me word that you had been so Kind as to get me out of the scrape of having left *undone what I ought to have done* –* He did not tell me how; but, as it was in your Hands, I was perfectly satisfied, & convinced that it would be, as I find it was, quite right –¹ I am so much obliged to you on many Accounts that it becomes a thing of course with me to expect your assistance – I am going from hence, where I should have been very happy to have had you & my Copper Coloured friend, Omai, to Newcastle for two or three days, but must be there again on the Tenth of Oct^r, so that it will be the latter end of that Month before I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in Town. – Lyons² has comitted a monstrous Blunder in one of his calculations relative to the Pendulum observations, which has monstrously the appearance of Cookery – Horsley³ has detected it & is /to publish an account of it. I am/ going on to all appearances very well with my Election matters, but shall be very glad to be with you again

I am

My Dear Banks

Ever most affectionately

yours

C:° J. Phipps

*Note by Sir J. Banks. “in not presenting a copy to the Queen.”

[DTC I 78.]

1. Having promised to present Queen Charlotte (1744–1818) a copy of *A Voyage towards the North Pole undertaken by His Majesty's command, 1773* it appears that Phipps forgot and needed to be reminded by Banks.
2. **Israel Lyons the younger** (1739–75): mathematician; botanist; son of Israel Lyons the elder (d. 1770). Lyons was a talented intellectual, who published various works in mathematics and botany that gained him notice at a young age. In 1764 while at Christ Church, Oxford, Joseph Banks paid Lyons to come from Cambridge in order deliver a short course of lectures on botany. Later on Lyons was appointed by the Board of Longitude as official astronomer on Phipps's Arctic voyage of 1773. On the voyage Lyons tested chronometers by Larcum Kendall (1719–90) and John Arnold (1735/6–99). Lyons's observations and calculations were published by Phipps in the official account of the mission, but some of his unattributed calculations were found to be in error.
3. The Reverend Samuel Horsley (1733–1806): mathematician; Bishop of St Asaph; FRS 9 April 1767. Horsley edited and published some of Sir Isaac Newton's papers, and led a group of Fellows against Banks in the Royal Society Dissensions of 1783–4.