

THE LETTERS OF KATHERINE CONOLLY
1707-1747

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Edited by
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AND
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The letters of Katherine Conolly, which run from 1707 to 1747, are dispersed over five archives. This is due in part to the decision of the 6th Lord Carew, the last owner of Castletown who had inherited it from his uncle Major E. M. Conolly, to break up the collection and to donate the papers to a number of archives.¹ The majority of Katherine Conolly's letters to her sister Jane Bonnell and associated papers are in the National Library of Ireland in the Smythe of Barbavilla collection.² Letters to Lady Anne Conolly have been identified in Trinity College, Dublin and the Irish Architectural Archive, and to Lady Anne's parents, Lord and Lady Strafford, in the British Library. Two letters to a distant Murray cousin (in the Murray of Broughton Papers) are in Edinburgh in the National Archives of Scotland. Those written to Charles Delafaye, formerly secretary at Dublin Castle, are in the State Papers in The National Archives at Kew, London and the Tickell papers which are in the family's possession.

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MARIE-LOUISE JENNINGS
GABRIELLE ASHFORD

¹ For the impact of his decision and further discovery of manuscripts, see the introduction to Patrick Walsh and A. P. W. Malcomson (eds), *The Conolly archive* (IMC, Dublin, 2010), pp vii, xix–xxiii.

² Katherine Conolly's letters to her sister Jane Bonnell are in the Smythe of Barbavilla papers (NLI, MS 41578/1–18); Ralph Smyth was the executor of Jane Bonnell's will.

This edition of the letters to Katherine Conolly was initiated by Dr Marie-Louise Jennings, who passed away on the 3 August 2015, before this project could be brought to completion.³ However, prior to her untimely passing, Dr Jennings had agreed to the suggestion, which emanated from the IMC, that she should be assisted in the task of preparing the text by Gabrielle Ashford. The preparation of the text for publication has been overseen by Dr Ashford who has added additional letters not known to Dr Jennings, finalised the transcription and checking of the text, developed the apparatus, prepared the pedigrees included in the appendix and undertaken the other tasks required to bring the project to realisation.

JAMES KELLY

³ The Irish Manuscripts Commission records with great regret the death of Dr Jennings. An obituary was published in the *Irish Times* on 5 September 2015.

ABBREVIATIONS

- Abstracts of wills* P. Beryl Eustace and Eilis Ellis (eds), *Registry of deeds, Dublin: abstracts of wills* (IMC, 3 vols, Dublin, 1954–84)
- Alumni Dubl.* G. D. Burtchaell and T. U. Sadleir, *Alumni Dublinenses: a register of the students, graduates, professors and provosts of Trinity College in the University of Dublin, 1593–1860* (London, 1924)
- Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany* Lady Llanover (ed.), *The autobiography and correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs Delany: with interesting reminiscences of King George the third and Queen Charlotte* (3 vols, London, 1861)
- Ball, *Judges* F. E. Ball, *The judges in Ireland, 1221–1921* (2 vols, London, 1926)
- BL British Library
- bt baronet
- Conolly archive* Patrick Walsh and A. P. W. Malcomson (eds), *The Conolly archive* (IMC, Dublin, 2010)
- DIB* James McGuire and James Quinn (eds), *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (9 vols, Cambridge, 2009; dib.cambridge.org)
- GEC G. E. C[okayne], *The complete peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom, extant, extinct or dormant* (13 vols, London, 1910–59)
- HIP* E. M. Johnston-Liik, *History of the Irish Parliament, 1692–1800* (6 vols, Belfast, 2002)
- HoP: 1690–1715* Eveline Cruickshanks et al., *History of Parliament: the House of Commons, 1690–1715*, (5 vols, Cambridge, 2002; historyofparliamentonline.org/research)
- HoP: 1715–54* Romney Sedgwick (ed.), *History of Parliament: the House of Commons, 1715–54* (2 vols, London, 1970; historyofparliamentonline.org/research)

- HoP: 1754–90* Sir Lewis Namier and J. Brooke (eds), *History of Parliament: the House of Commons, 1754–90* (3 vols, London, 1964; historyofparliamentonline.org/research)
- Hughes, *Patentee officers* J. L. J. Hughes, *Patentee officers in Ireland, 1173–1826* (IMC, Dublin, 1960)
- IAA Irish Architectural Archive
- King's Inns admissions* Edward Keane, P. Beryl Phair and Thomas U. Sadlier (eds), *King's Inns admission papers, 1607–1867* (IMC, Dublin, 1982)
- Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements* A. P. W. Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements, government and the governing elite in Ireland, 1725–75* (Dublin, 2005)
- NAI National Archives of Ireland
- NAS National Archives of Scotland
- NHI T. W. Moody *et al.*, *A New History of Ireland* (9 vols, Oxford, 1976–2005)
- NLI National Library of Ireland
- ODNB H. C. G. Matthew and Brian Harrison (eds), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (60 vols, Oxford, 2004; oxforddnb.com)
- PRONI Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
- RCPI Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- SP State Papers
- TCD Trinity College Dublin
- TNA The National Archives, London
- Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy* Patrick Walsh, *The making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy: the life of William Conolly, 1662–1729* (Woodbridge, 2010)

INTRODUCTION

The letters of Katherine Conolly provide a revealing perspective on the life of a rich, energetic and intelligent Irish woman living in the first half of the eighteenth century. She was born in 1662, the eldest daughter of Sir Albert Conyngham of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, and Margaret Leslie, of Hillsboro, Co. Down. Katherine Conyngham's grandfather, Rev. Alexander Conyngham, MA (*c.* 1580–1660), was naturalised as an English subject in 1616, and became the first protestant minister of Inver and Kellymard, Co. Donegal, being ordained prebend of both in 1611. He vacated Kellymard in 1622 and Inver in 1630 when he was installed dean of Raphoe on 22 June 1630. Conyngham settled at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal. He held part of his estate by lease from the earl of Annandale and 320 acres of land in Dromlogheran and Corcama in the barony of Raphoe given by letters patent of denization by Charles I upon his removing to Ireland. As dean of Raphoe he secured the grant of Carrohardvarne, Corleaugh-in-begg, Fodrialter, Fanedorke, Tullydonnill and other lands.

Alexander married Marian Murray, grand-niece of the earl of Glencairn and daughter of John Murray, of Wigtownshire, Scotland, who owned the lands of Boylagh and Banagh in Co. Donegal which she brought to the Conyngham family as part of her marriage portion. The couple are reputed to have had twenty-seven children, at least ten of whom — five sons and five daughters — survived into adulthood. Their descendants and collateral relations — the Leslies, Montgomerys, Knoxes, Corrys and Hamiltons — feature among the many cousins referred to in Katherine Conolly's letters. In her letters to her sister Jane Bonnell (*c.* 1670–1745) after her marriage, Katherine Conolly refers to Conyngham forebears in the Isle of Man;¹ it has not been possible to trace these though there was a later, distant connection through the Sampson and McCausland families.²

Katherine's father, Albert Conyngham (d. 1691), the third son of Rev. Alexander Conyngham and Marian Murray, was appointed lieutenant-general of ordnance in Ireland for life on 4 December 1660 and knighted. Settling at Mountcharles, he married Margaret Leslie, the daughter of the Rev. Henry Leslie (1580–1661) and Jane Swinton (bap. 1584) of Hillsboro, Co. Down. They had nine children, four of whom survived to adulthood: Katherine (1662–1752), the writer of the letters presented in this edition; Henry (d. 1707) who on 9 December 1696 married Mary

¹ See letter no. 110.

² Michael Sampson (d. 1719), merchant and sheriff of Dublin in 1710 and brother of Ralph Sampson (d. 1763) who married Katherine Conolly's niece Jane Jones (*c.* 1717–85), married Jane McCausland (1685–1764) *c.* 1706. Their son Michael married Ellinor Murray (d. 1769) of the Isle of Man.

Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710), widow of John Petty, Lord Shelburne (d. 1696), and daughter of Sir John Williams of Carmarthenshire and the Isle of Thanet, Kent, whose lands she brought into the Conyngham family; Jane (c. 1670–1745) who married James Bonnell (1653–99), accountant general of Ireland in 1693; and Mary (1675–1765) who married Richard Jones (1662–1729) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath in 1707.

The Conynghams were a military family; Katherine's father and her brother both died in action. Sir Albert was killed in 1691 at Collooney, Co. Sligo during the Williamite wars, while Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham, who was appointed governor of Lerida, Spain and Lieutenant-General of the king's army in Spain in 1706, was killed at the battle of Almansa (Albacete, Spain) on 25 April 1707 during the war of the Spanish succession.

In 1694 Katherine Conyngham married William Conolly (1662–1729) of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, the eldest of ten children of Patrick Conolly and Jane Coan of the same county. When they married, Conolly was already embarked on what was to prove an immensely successful political career. His background was very different from that of his wife. It was claimed in Dublin that he was the son of a publican,³ but it is clear that the reports were misinformed. His father Patrick Conolly had land, paid hearth tax and was a protestant. He was also of sufficient consequence to be attainted by the Jacobite parliament of 1689.⁴

It is possible to detect in William Conolly an early plan to make a career away from his provincial place of origin. He began locally in Co. Donegal as agent to landowners,⁵ qualified as an attorney⁶ and was elected to parliament in 1692. With money from his marriage settlement to Katherine Conyngham, he bought and enlarged his landholdings with estates confiscated from Jacobite sympathisers that were sold from the 1690s onwards. Conolly was first made a commissioner of revenue in 1709, though his Whig politics interrupted this first appointment. He was dismissed in 1710, but reappointed in 1714 on the succession of George I. He was unanimously elected speaker of the Irish House of Commons in 1715. Through a combination of his own extensive landholdings and the interest of his own and his wife's relations, William Conolly was able to distribute favours locally in Counties Donegal and Londonderry by identifying positions in the revenue and elsewhere. As Marmaduke Coghill⁷ observed when Conolly was nearing death, his personal interests 'made him able to unite and keep people together' by providing for them and their relations in the revenue.⁸ At one time

³ In his *DIB* entry for William Conolly Patrick McNally writes: 'the documentary evidence shows Patrick Conolly leasing a substantial portion of Lord Folliott's estate at Ballyshannon, including the manorial mill, suggesting he was the estate miller, a position of some importance'; see also *Conolly archive*, pp viii–xii.

⁴ It has been suggested that the Conolly family's background was catholic, possibly through William's mother Jane Coan. This was used to his disadvantage in the disputed by-election in Co. Westmeath in 1723: see David Hayton, 'Two ballads on the Co. Westmeath by-election of 1723' in *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*, 4 (1989), 7–30; 'William Conolly (1662–1729)' in *DIB*; *Conolly archive*, pp xi–xii.

⁵ Conolly acted as agent for Capt. James Hamilton (later 6th earl of Abercorn), the 2nd duke of Ormond and for two elderly maiden ladies in Co. Donegal.

⁶ Conolly studied law in Dublin and qualified as an attorney in 1685.

⁷ Marmaduke Coghill (1673–1739), MP Armagh borough, 1692–1713, and for Dublin University, 1713–39; judge of the prerogative court and chancellor of the exchequer in Ireland: see *DIB*.

⁸ Marmaduke Coghill to Edward Southwell Sr, 13 Jun. 1728 (D. W. Hayton (ed.), *Letters of Marmaduke Coghill, 1722–1738* (IMC, Dublin, 2005), p. 53).

the extended Conyngham and Conolly families returned thirteen members of parliament.⁹ With his large clientage, Speaker Conolly was an undertaker *par excellence* who could be relied upon to deliver the king's business.

Throughout his lifetime William Conolly continued to enlarge his landholdings and consolidate his political position to the extent that at his death in 1729 he owned land in ten counties yielding an annual rent of £14,926.¹⁰ His income from office and *pourboires* given for offices dispensed were said to produce an additional annual income of £17,000.¹¹ At the height of his career Conolly was thought to be the richest commoner in Ireland.

As commissioner of the revenue, speaker of the House of Commons, and later as one of the lords justices, Conolly required an impressive house in which to receive important officials and to entertain. As a result, in 1707, shortly before he took up his position as a commissioner of the revenue,¹² Conolly purchased a substantial house on Capel Street, Dublin.¹³ It was close to Thomas Burgh's new Custom House, built in 1704 beside Essex Bridge, and part of the Jervis estate, one of the first new large-scale residential developments built away from the medieval city on the north bank of the river Liffey. The area, designed to appeal to a fashionable clientele, became popular; political colleagues such as Marmaduke Coghill and Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) purchased houses nearby. It was from Capel Street that Katherine Conolly would write to her sisters when she was in Dublin. Shortly after moving in she described her parlours, drawing room and her own room as being decorated in a style 'gentill tho not rich'.¹⁴

As well as an impressive house in the city William Conolly required an imposing house in the country not too far from Dublin to which to retire as well as to entertain and court his political connections, while Katherine required a setting befitting her social status. Though he possessed a country residence at Rodenstown, Co. Meath, outside Kilcock, Co. Kildare from 1691, Conolly bought the Castletown estate, twelve miles from Dublin in the same county in 1709,¹⁵ and in 1722 construction of the great Palladian mansion that survives today commenced. Initially Conolly employed the Italian architect Alessandro Galilei (1691–1737) to design the building, but it is now thought that Galilei only worked on the facade and that the rest of the

⁹ Mary O'Dowd, *A history of women in Ireland 1500–1800* (Harlow, 2005), p. 44.

¹⁰ See *Conolly archive*, pp ix–x.

¹¹ This was the amount of William Conolly's private income p.a. at his death: *DIB*.

¹² Jonathan Swift alleged that Conolly paid the whig viceroy Lord Wharton £3,000 for the post. Although cited as fact by some historians, Patrick Walsh points out that Swift's antipathy to Wharton may have been the foundation for this allegation: Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*, p. 126.

¹³ William Conolly's mansion was located at the corner of Capel Street and Little Britain Street. In 1758/59, it had 26 taxable hearths. It was demolished c. 1770 and Ralph Ward built a terrace of six houses there (latterly occupied by nos 103–8): TCD, MS 3974/121–125; *Capel Street and environs, draft architectural conservation area (ACA)* (Dublin City Council); Olwyn James, *Capel Street: a study of the past, a vision of the future* (Dublin, 2001), pp 9, 13, 15–17.

¹⁴ Katherine Conolly to Lady Shelburne, 7 Oct. 1707; written on verso William Conolly's letter to Lady Shelburne (NLI, MS 15,549); see letter no. 1 below.

¹⁵ The will of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707), which was signed in 1704, lists William Conolly as one of his executors and residing at Raydenstown (Co. Meath): see IAA, E/3/21 (21 Sept. 1709) for deed of conveyance of Castletown estate from Thomas Dongan (1634–1715), 2nd earl of Limerick, to William Conolly.

building was designed by the chief exponent of Palladianism in Ireland Edward Lovett Pearce (1699–1733).¹⁶ The response was not universally favourable. To the English eye of his nephew's wife, Lady Anne Conolly (1714–97) who visited the house in 1733, the building and its surrounds looked

so very unfinish'd, without doors, I don't think the place very pleasant, tho the house is really a charming one to live in. The front is quite without ornaments of any sort, not even so much as pediments over the windows, and the offices are seperat'd [from] it by a very handsome collenade that altogether it looks very well. At least here it does, when there is but few places are any way like a seat, and to me they have all one fault and that is the want of trees, by which reason every place looks terrable raw and cold.¹⁷

Another visitor, the English antiquarian and travel writer John Loveday (1711–89), described the house in 1732 as built 'of a bastard unpolished marble, quarried locally'; he also maintained that the number of windows on the front façade were 'too many either for beauty or strength'.¹⁸ Though the interior was not then finished — the 'great staircase' of Portland stone and brass balustrades had not yet been begun and some rooms, including the long gallery had no furniture — the interior rooms he thought were large, well-proportioned and well furnished. The garret rooms he described as exceedingly good, all wainscotted and well furnished with marble chimney pieces.¹⁹ These smaller rooms remain as Loveday viewed them.

Perhaps it was Irish taste that dissatisfied the English eye: Mrs Mary Delany (1700–88) described Castletown as 'a large heavy building, a vast deal of room in it, but not laid out with a good taste; the furniture good, but not disposed to the best advantage; the situation very fine'.²⁰ Indeed, Katherine's sister Mary Jones (1675–1765) disparagingly described Castletown as 'the Grey Tower my sister has made'.²¹ Unfortunately Katherine Conolly never refers in detail to the interiors of her houses in Dublin and Castletown. She preferred Castletown; the house in Capel Street she condemned as damp. Castletown may have been perfect for entertaining but its size could be very demanding of older guests. Mary Jones was reluctant to stay there. When her maidservant was absent having a baby, she declined a pressing invitation to stay at Castletown complaining that there were

now²² sarvants but housemaids, and as the room I ley in is fore score steps of stairs from the parler, it wod have been hard for me to be looking for them [servants] when I wanted them, for the going up stairs when I must dow it fatiges me greatly.²³

¹⁶ David Griffin, 'An architectural history of Castletown' in *Castletown: decorative arts* (Trim, 2011), p. 29.

¹⁷ Quoted in Patrick Walsh, 'Biography and the meaning of an Irish country house: William Conolly and Castletown' in Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgeway (eds), *The Irish country house: its past, present and future* (Dublin, 2011), pp 21–39.

¹⁸ John Loveday, *Diary of a tour in 1732 through parts of England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland* (London, 1890), pp 48–9.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Lady Llanover (ed.), *The autobiography and correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs Delany: with interesting reminiscences of King George the third and Queen Charlotte* (3 vols, London, 1861), i, 342; for Mary Delany (1700–88) see *DIB*.

²¹ Mary Jones, Beamore, to Jane Bonnell, 31 July [n.d.] (NLI, MS 41,577/3).

²² *Lege* no.

²³ Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 12 Aug. [1744?] (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

She hoped that Katherine would lay her 'lower then she youst to dow, for leying so hey'²⁴ as I allways do almost killed me, 80 steps of stairs is what I can't bear.'²⁵

It is not known when the Conollys moved into their great mansion in Co. Kildare. Katherine's letters are occasionally addressed from 'Castell:town' from the early 1720s, before the new house could have been completed. When Conolly purchased the estate there was already a house which may have served for a time as their residence.²⁶ Even though Castletown remained unfinished during William's lifetime, Conolly was important enough to entice prominent and influential visitors to make the journey from Dublin. It was a discreet location, away from spying eyes. The lord lieutenant and his party were frequent visitors as were many of Conolly's political friends. Following her husband's death, Katherine continued to act as hostess and Castletown was constantly filled with her many relations and other guests.

Mary Jones's letters to Jane Bonnell throw a contrasting light on Katherine Conolly's self-pronounced quiet life spent writing and sewing. Mary observed that her sister was 'fond of crouds and verry young folkes' and was surprised that she had time to do anything she entertained so much.²⁷ She worried that her sister's 'young gaye compeney may dow her harm. I am sure its what I cood not hold out with having them so constantly as she duse.'²⁸ Katherine's letters to her sisters rarely omit to mention the members of her extended family who stayed with her, often for months at a time. Visitors also travelled from Dublin to Castletown for the day. On one occasion twenty-eight people attended dinner in the parlour, ten of whom came from Dublin. Even after William Conolly's death Katherine frequently had the lord lieutenant to stay, as the official country residence of the viceroy at Chapelizod, just west of Dublin, was not suitable for large scale entertainment.

However, some of the entertainment engaged in in Castletown was not, in the view of the straight laced Mary Jones, appropriate. Katherine and her nephew by marriage Frank Burton were fond of gambling and the card game of basset²⁹ was their favourite. Their losses could be sizeable. Mary Jones disapprovingly noted that Katherine and Frank 'lost 100 pound' on one night's basset alone, adding that what Katherine lost at basset would have made herself a rich woman.³⁰ Some of the company invited to stay at Castletown were of doubtful social and moral character. One such was the Drury Lane actress Kitty Clive. Mary Jones reported

²⁴ *Lege* high.

²⁵ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell [n.d.] (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

²⁶ *Conolly archive*, p. 182.

²⁷ Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 12 Aug. [1744?] (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

²⁸ Mary Jones, Dublin, to Jane Bonnell, 16 Oct. [1733?] (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

²⁹ Basset was introduced into England from France *c.* 1677 but never caught on outside Court circles on account of its costliness and the heavy risks it entailed. It became extremely popular during the early years of the eighteenth-century. The English version of basset allowed players to gamble as they liked, staking from one guinea to one hundred guineas and more upon a card. The odds lay always with the banker. The craze was so worrying that an act of parliament was passed making basset illegal; 'farewell basset', as Mrs Jones put it, was played at Castletown: see Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 28 Feb. [n. d.] (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

³⁰ Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 16 Oct. [1733?] (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

that Mrs Clive

was one, they say, of a bad carricter who was shown much kindness by Mrs Conolly who went to tow³¹ of her benefite plays and had her twist³² or thrise³³ at Castelltown and tho ther[e] was so much compeney as to have three tables at diner, she had her at the table with her self, wher[e] ther[e] was compeney of the first ranke.³⁴

Another guest was Loftus Hume, ‘the giddyest young man I ever saw’ and ‘very fond of himself’ according to Mary Jones.³⁵ He drove Katherine and Mary Jones from Leixlip to Castletown in a coach and six at such a rate that Mary was terrified.

Mary Delany visited Katherine at Castletown a number of times and observed the rhythm of life there. In one of her letters she described Katherine Conolly’s day.³⁶ She would rise at eight in the morning and by eleven o’clock was seated in her drawing room. Here she received her house-guests and visitors, who talked together while she sewed and knitted and drank cups of the chocolate sent to her from England by her sister Jane. Katherine’s liking for chocolate (she called it *jacklet*) was insatiable; in postscripts to many of her letters she repeatedly urged her sister to ‘heasten my jacklet.’³⁷ At twelve the household was summoned for prayers. At three o’clock Katherine would have dinner. This was served with ceremony; Katherine would have separate tables seating eight or ten people each and a table of her own with her most important guests. She would serve two removes of dishes, seven dishes at a time, and a dessert. At the end of dinner the ladies retired to the drawing room and the gentlemen to finish ‘as they pleased,’ as Mrs Delany politely put it. With the ladies Katherine would sit in a large grey chair, possibly the ‘mourning chair’ she ordered from England in 1730 after her husband’s death.³⁸ Here while the ladies chatted she would fall asleep. Tea and coffee were served at five thirty, and cards played. Except for Arthur Price, bishop of Meath, who was a client of William Conolly’s and had a house nearby in Celbridge, Katherine seems not to have entertained the clergy.³⁹

The recipient of most of Katherine Conolly’s surviving letters was her widowed sister Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745). It is clear that the epistolary correspondence between the sisters formed an important part of the strategy each sister adopted when negotiating their position within the family. For Jane, this was to act as an intermediary not only between her sisters, but also between her wayward Conyngham nephews.

³¹ *Lege* two.

³² *Lege* twice.

³³ *Lege* thrice.

³⁴ Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 27 Oct. [*post* 1737; *ante* 1743] (NLI, MS 41,577/5).

³⁵ Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell [n.d.] (NLI, MS 41,577/5). Possibly referring to Nicholas Hume Loftus (1738–69), 2nd earl of Ely, the only son of Nicholas Hume-Loftus (1714–66), 1st earl of Ely: see *HIP*.

³⁶ *Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany*, iii, 158–9.

³⁷ See letter no. 221 below.

³⁸ See letter no. 66 below.

³⁹ Arthur Price (1679/80–1752), Church of Ireland clergyman, succeeded his father in 1705 as prebendary of Donadea and vicar of Kildrough (Celbridge), Co. Kildare, where he built a fine residence and called it Oakley Park. He was later bishop of Clonfert (1724–30), Ferns (1730–34), Meath (1734–44) and archbishop of Cashel (1744–52): Registry of Deeds, 8 Jan. 1729 (RD 61/521/42288); *DIB*.

Jane Conyngham married James Bonnell⁴⁰ in 1693. They had two sons who died young and one daughter who died *circa* six years old.⁴¹ Bonnell, who was born at Genoa in 1653 and was described as ‘tall, well-shaped and fair,’ was renowned for his piety and devoutness. Every night he said prayers, read the scriptures and pious religious tracts with his family and servants for one hour. On Sundays he discouraged visitors, preferring to spend the day in prayer and contemplation with his own family.⁴² Bonnell was appointed accountant-general of Ireland and in 1695 secretary of the forfeitures commission.⁴³ Following his death of a malignant fever on 28 April 1699, his widow Jane moved to England and lived in lodgings in London. She later moved to Writtle, near Chelmsford, Essex, where she died in 1745.

Jane Bonnell’s income from her late husband’s estate was small and was further reduced when the exchange rate between England and Ireland fell in 1701.⁴⁴ However, Jane believed herself to be an astute manager of money as she invested in stocks, mainly through Hoare’s Bank in London, and acted as a stock-jobber for her friends. She also bought and sold lottery tickets and it is possible that the receipts from these enabled her to buy shares.⁴⁵ She invested in South Sea Company stock in 1719 and also advised some of her women friends to purchase shares in the company.⁴⁶ Jane’s precarious financial situation was a topic frequently discussed in letters between her wealthy sister Katherine Conolly and their sister Mary Jones. Her financial worries were exacerbated in 1721 as she lost a considerable sum of money when the South Sea bubble burst.⁴⁷ Her finances were further impaired by two long running disputes involving loans she made to the King family⁴⁸ and a mortgage for £1,500 she held on the Donegal estate of the Conyngham brothers.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ James Bonnell (1653–99): *DIB*.

⁴¹ Her unnamed daughter was alive in March 1703: W. M. Honeywood to Jane Bonnell, 4 Mar. 1703 (NLI, MS 41,580/28).

⁴² William Hamilton, *The exemplary life and character of James Bonnell Esq., late accomptant general of Ireland* (3rd ed., London, 1707).

⁴³ *DIB*.

⁴⁴ Anne Laurence, ‘Women investors, “that nasty South Sea affair” and the rate to speculate in early eighteenth-century England’ in *Accounting, Business and Financial History* [*Accounting History Review* since 2011], vol. 16, no. 2 (July 2006), pp 245–64, at pp 252–3 (hereafter cited as Laurence ‘Women investors’). We are grateful to Anne Laurence for her assistance in understanding Jane Bonnell’s monetary affairs.

⁴⁵ Laurence ‘Women investors’, p. 256.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, p. 255.

⁴⁷ Jane Bonnell to Dr Francis Dickens, 15 Sept. 1721, cited in Laurence, ‘Women investors’, p. 259; NLI, MS 41,580/31.

⁴⁸ Though payment of the debt was delayed, Sir Henry King, 3rd bt (1680–1741) did acknowledge that it was due, explaining to Jane Bonnell that ‘my brother [Sir John] King [2nd bt; d. 1721] left me loaded with very many and large debts, above £1300 ... of them I have secured in my marriage settlement among which yours is one’: Henry King to Jane Bonnell, 25 Jan. 1723 (NLI, MS 41,580/31; MS 41,589/17). See below letters nos 160, 266 and 267; for Sir Henry King and Sir John King see *HIP*.

⁴⁹ In 1702 Brigadier Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) wrote to Jane Bonnell proposing that she should invest most of her capital, £1,500, in a mortgage on his Co. Donegal estate and suggesting that she would have an income of £140 per annum paid in half yearly payments. This formed the basis for the subsequent long running dispute between Jane and her Conyngham nephews. Jane left the mortgage, which was still not recovered at the time of her death, to found a charity: Brigadier Henry Conyngham to Jane Bonnell, 4 July 1702 (NLI, MS 42,579/1); Anne Laurence, ‘The emergence of a private clientele for banks in the early eighteenth-century: Hoares Bank and some women customers’ in *Economic History Review*, new ser., vol. 61, no. 3 (2008), pp 565–86, at p. 580.

Katherine's financial independence allowed her to support Jane during times of particular hardship.

Mary Conyngham (1675–1765) who married Richard Jones (1662–1729) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath in 1707, was the youngest of the three Conyngham sisters. She was also closer to her sister Jane Bonnell than to Katherine. According to Mary, her temperament and outlook was due to the care Jane 'took of me when I was young. [It] was the greatest happiness of my life, for I hope I shall never forget the good instructions you gave me.'⁵⁰

Though generous to many relations, Katherine was disposed to be difficult with family who had not paid her husband the respect she felt due to him. Richard Jones of Dolanstown, as a member of parliament for Killibegs, a seat in William Conolly's gift, angered him in 1709 by failing to vote as desired by Earl Wharton, the lord lieutenant. The ill feeling this generated added to the coldness that resulted when their daughter Jane married Ralph Sampson (1693–1763) in 1707, a match of which Katherine was particularly disapproving. Sampson had not only spoken ill of William Conolly, but was also engaged in trade.⁵¹ Even though there was a close family connection between Katherine and Ralph Sampson's sister-in-law, Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764),⁵² who was invited to stay in Castletown, Katherine failed to provide for the Sampson family to the same extent as she did for others. This slight, not only to herself but also to her family, was felt quite deeply by Mary Jones who recounted every gift Katherine made them in her letters to their sister Jane. Though Katherine used Ralph Sampson's services as a wine merchant, this was probably due to Jane Bonnell's insistence.

Based upon the only surviving portrait, it seems that Katherine Conolly was not particularly good looking.⁵³ She was described by Mary Delany as 'a plain and vulgar woman in her manners.'⁵⁴ Nevertheless, her background was distinguished, her portion ample and, through her extended family and relations, she had a network of valuable political and social connections in Ulster. It is possible William Conolly married her for these connections.⁵⁵ He shrewdly capitalised on his links with Katherine's relations by offering them seats in parliament and official positions. This proved financially and politically advantageous, not only for them but also for their brothers, sisters and their children. Yet, despite this practical consideration there is no doubting that Katherine loved her husband. Her references to him, both when he was alive and afterwards are full of affection and respect. Though there were no living children from their marriage⁵⁶ that is not to say that Katherine was barren. She understood the experience of childbirth

⁵⁰ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 19 Aug. (n.d.) (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

⁵¹ See letters nos 12 and 70 below.

⁵² In her correspondence Katherine referred to Jane Sampson as the 'widow' and 'cosen' Sampson: see letter no. 200.

⁵³ Charles Jervas, 'Katherine Conolly and Mary Burton', portrait at Castletown, Co. Kildare: see frontispiece.

⁵⁴ *Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany*, iii, 159.

⁵⁵ Toby Barnard, 'A tale of three sisters: Katherine Conolly of Castletown' in Toby Barnard, *Irish Protestant ascents and descents, 1641–1770* (Dublin, 2004), p. 273 (hereafter cited as Barnard, 'A tale of three sisters').

⁵⁶ It was rumoured that William Conolly fathered the son of a Mrs Dellamare. The boy died of smallpox in 1727, aged eight: see Patrick McNally's entry for Conolly in *DIB*; TNA, C 110/46/528.

as she revealed when she assisted her nephew's wife Lady Anne Conolly (1714–97) in the unexpected birth of her first child.⁵⁷

As the wife of William Conolly, Katherine was a channel for people seeking favours from government. Those who sought positions at Dublin Castle or government employment or clerical appointments might approach William Conolly through her. Power, position and wealth gave her a strong sense of her own importance, and with reason, when her husband was living; after due consideration she would put forward the names of those she deemed suitable. Promoting her Conyngham and Conolly relations was her first concern. After William's death in 1729 she mourned her loss of political influence. She clung to what power she had and considered writing sharply to reprimand the widow of her agent in Newtown Limavady, a Conolly fiefdom, for putting forward her son as burgess on the borough corporation without consulting her.⁵⁸ When she sought a position for an old servant from the Customs Board in 1733 Katherine complained that 'nothing grates me more than to be denyed at that Bord, and this 16 months I have bine sollisiting for the meanest plans they have to give.'⁵⁹ In 1734, five years after William's death, she wrote to Clotilde Tickell who was once a close friend, stating that it was impossible to persuade Dublin Castle to give a position to a friend.⁶⁰

Secured by her social and financial position, Katherine took a close interest in her extended family's business and welfare, promoting their interests and reprimanding them when she disagreed with their actions. Her sister Mary Jones once reported to Jane Bonnell that 'my sister is angerry with [Henry Conyngham] for not [supporting] a member for Killibegs of her recommending'.⁶¹ In 1727, Katherine wrote some forty letters to assist Frank Burton, her nephew by marriage, in his campaign to secure election to parliament. Furthermore, she advised her sister Jane Bonnell during her long-running legal dispute with their nephew Williams Conyngham (c. 1698–1738) and after his death, his brother Henry (1707–81) concerning the mortgage Jane held on the Conyngham Donegal estates.

William Conolly died at his home in Capel Street, Dublin on 30 October 1729. Katherine was devastated and her descent into mourning was extreme. Conolly left £1,000 in his will to pay for his funeral and further monies for funeral clothes and mourning rings. His funeral and cortege were arranged in such grand style that many in Dublin society maintained it would have been more suitable for royalty.⁶² Indeed it might well have been as it was organised by the Ulster King of Arms and

⁵⁷ Katherine Conolly to Lady Strafford, 31 Jan. (1733) (BL, Add. MS 22228, f. 168).

⁵⁸ Katherine Conolly to Mrs McCausland, 9 June 1737, unsend letter (OPW Maynooth University & Archive Centre); see letter no. 148 below. See also Marmaduke Coghill to Edward Southwell, 21 June 1733 (Hayton (ed.), *Letters of Marmaduke Coghill*, p. 128) on the outcome of the election for sovereign in which her candidate was not successful.

⁵⁹ Katherine Conolly to Jane Bonnell, 20 Mar. 1733 (NLI, MS 41,578/7); see letter no. 93 below.

⁶⁰ Katherine Conolly to Clotilde Tickell, 2 July 1734 (Tickell papers, in private possession); see letter no. 104 below.

⁶¹ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 27 Oct. (*post* 1737; *ante* 1743) (NLI, MS 41,755/5).

⁶² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) remarked to Jane Bonnell that Katherine's covering her bedchamber floor in black would 'be a matter of great observation to the town, being usual only to persons of the first quality' (NLI, MS 41,579/9).

was widely reported on in the newspapers. According to the *Dublin Weekly Journal* of 8 November 1729, all available members of parliament, the lord lieutenant, the lord mayor of Dublin and various nobility and gentry attended the funeral. There were also sixty-seven poor men dressed in black signifying Conolly's age.⁶³ A long procession of 700 mourners walked behind the funeral coach from Capel Street. In a gesture of support for the Irish linen industry, those in the cortege wore Irish linen scarves, while the Conolly's house in Capel Street was fully draped in black cloth.⁶⁴ During the first months of mourning Katherine remained in her bedroom, the walls of which were hung in black, her bed surrounded by an inner circle of more black curtains. From then on, in line with custom and tradition, Katherine always wore black or at least grey half-mourning.⁶⁵ Katherine's grief in the wake of William Conolly's death was so profound and long lasting that her relations were at one point anxious for her welfare. Frank Burton informed his aunt Jane Bonnell in November 1729 that she 'neither eats, drinks, or sleeps.'⁶⁶

Apart from some bequests to his own and his wife's relatives, William Conolly left his houses in Dublin and Castletown and all his land in counties Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Roscommon and other lands in counties Dublin, Donegal, Fermanagh, Wexford and Waterford to his wife for her lifetime and in trust for his nephew William Conolly (1706–54).⁶⁷ Katherine was now a wealthy and, crucially, an independent woman, a fact she was very conscious of.⁶⁸ In a letter to her sister Jane Bonnell she proposed to 'live up to the h[e]ight as his wido in every respect'.⁶⁹

Echoing the eighteenth-century ideal of deserving and undeserving poor, Katherine refused to lend or give money to her friends and relations if she considered they were unworthy. She informed her sister in 1742 that 'I have a great fortune its true, more then I ever expected, but the more wan has the more is expected from them, and I have more demands then I can possibly answer'.⁷⁰ As a consequence, Katherine was careful not to appear too charitable. Her sister Mary commented that when in town Katherine would complain of a shortage of money, 'for fear I should aske her the lone of some'.⁷¹

Despite Mary Jones's criticisms, Katherine Conolly had a reputation for generosity and aiding the poor. This characteristic was particularly in evidence during the famine crisis of 1740–41 when, according to Mary, Katherine did 'a great deall of good to the poor both in town and country,' though she did wonder how she could

⁶³ *Dublin Weekly Journal*, 8 Nov. 1729.

⁶⁴ Writing to Jane Bonnell in Dec. 1729, Francis (Frank) Burton noted that Katherine's apartment was 'hung in grey and the great stair case and the great apartment above stairs in black ... the floor of the great bedchamber is covered with black.' (NLI, MS 41,579/9).

⁶⁵ See letter no. 198.

⁶⁶ Frank Burton to Jane Bonnell, 19 Nov. 1729 (NLI, MS 41,577/2).

⁶⁷ See IAA, Castletown papers, G/1–18, for deeds, vouchers and other papers relating to settlements, mortgages, debts, wills and other matters relating to the Conolly family finances; see also William Conolly's will dated 18 Oct. 1729 in NLI, Conyngham papers, MS 35,403/3.

⁶⁸ See Barnard, 'A tale of three sisters'; A. P. W. Malcomson, *The pursuit of the heiress: aristocratic marriage in Ireland 1740–1840* (Belfast, 2006).

⁶⁹ See letter no. 65.

⁷⁰ See letter no. 223.

⁷¹ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 11 Apr. (1734) (NLI, MS 41,755/3).

'live as she did and dow so much'.⁷² In the same letter Mary also reported that Katherine was building 'an obelisk⁷³ to answer a vistow⁷⁴ from the lake at Castletown.⁷⁵

Building the obelisk (later called Conolly's Folly) was not just a fancy of Katherine's. The winter of 1739 was exceptionally cold, potatoes rotted in the fields and country people died of starvation. This severe winter was followed by a dry spring and summer, and the winter of 1740 again saw temperatures drop below freezing. Rivers froze and as a result mills were unable to operate. That winter Katherine sent from Dublin 'four score loaves of bread⁷⁶ every wick to Castelltown for my poor laborors and the other poor', observing that 'not less then a 100 feed hear every day, soe if this we[a]ther continius long I beli[e]ve we be all poor, for no charity can hold out'.⁷⁷ Only in 1741 did the weather ease and bring some relief. Influenced by this experience, the 'wonderful barn' or granary at Leixlip was purposely built by Katherine in 1743 to store grain for potential leaner times.

The lack of an heir meant that on William Conolly's death his estates were divided between his widow, his nephew William Conolly and, to some extent, Katherine's nephews William and Henry Conyngham. On the death of her brother Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham and the subsequent remarriage of their mother Lady Shelburne, William and Katherine Conolly became the guardians of Williams, Henry and Mary (Missy) Conyngham.⁷⁸ Throughout her early letters to her sister Jane, Katherine manifested deep concern about the behaviour of the eldest, Williams, who was referred to frequently by the sisters as 'our unhappy' and 'worthless nephew'. Fatherless and heir to a considerable, if indebted, estate both in Ireland and England, Williams epitomised the stereotypical unreliable young man of the eighteenth century. Throughout his life, he was a source of much anxiety, anger and heartache to the Conollys. By the time he was fourteen he had contracted venereal disease and subsequent infections suggest he behaved without any concern for his own welfare.⁷⁹ In an effort to remove him from bad company he was dispatched on a grand tour with a tutor, Christopher Caldwell. While in Amsterdam Williams met a young woman, Adamina Wilhelmina Nierop of Utrecht and to the consternation of his tutor they entered into an engagement to marry, though both were under age.⁸⁰ Williams Conyngham married Adamina Nierop in Doctors' Commons⁸¹ in the church of St Benet, Pauls Wharf, London, on 4 October 1717.⁸² In

⁷² Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 14 Mar. (1741?) (NLI, MS 41,577/5).

⁷³ *Lege* obelisk.

⁷⁴ *Lege* vista.

⁷⁵ See letter no. 188.

⁷⁶ *Lege* bread.

⁷⁷ See letter no. 188.

⁷⁸ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737), daughter of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710).

⁷⁹ See letter no. 15.

⁸⁰ Christopher Caldwell, Amsterdam, to William Conolly, including a letter from Williams Conyngham to Katherine Conolly, 17 Sept. (1718) (NLI, MS 41,579/1).

⁸¹ Doctors' Commons or the College of Civilians was a society of lawyers practising civil law in London.

⁸² 'England Marriages, 1538–1973' (<https://familysearch.org>, accessed 30 Oct. 2014).

acknowledgement of this fact, Williams referred to Adamina as his ‘wife’ and her parents as his ‘in-laws’ in letters home. Furthermore, in a letter to his aunt Jane Bonnell, a pregnant Adamina addressed her as ‘Dear aunt’.⁸³ Anxious that his child would be born in England ‘that it may be capable of enjoying the privileges of a British subject,’ Williams and Adamina travelled to London.⁸⁴ Although no record has been uncovered confirming the birth of a child, Katherine Conolly later paid the funeral costs of a young child, Albert Conyngham, who died on 6 February 1720 and was buried in Slane.⁸⁵ Adamina died probably in 1719 as the family were in mourning in July of that year.⁸⁶

In that year, Williams met a young heiress, Constance Middleton (1698–1767)⁸⁷ whose mother was an Onslow and her uncle Sir Arthur Onslow, one of the most notable speakers of the Westminster House of Commons. Constance Middleton and Williams Conyngham were married in London on 27 August 1719.⁸⁸ Their first child Mary was born in London in August 1720 but she did not survive infancy.⁸⁹ Their son William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham was born on 24 July 1721, also in London.⁹⁰

Jane Bonnell continued to function as intermediary between her nephews and the Conollys by maintaining contact with Constance in England while Williams returned to Dublin. Here he resumed his dissolute life — mixing in bad company, cashing money on William Conolly’s bank account and carousing in Dublin taverns. Acutely aware of the magnitude of his debts, Williams declined to inform his uncle Conolly of their true extent, preferring instead to inform his aunt Bonnell that:

I durst not a[c]quent him with that, finding him in such a passion when I told him my debts were aboute twelve hundred pound less than they are, so that if I had told him the [w]hole, I am convinced he wou[l]d been in such a passion that I shou[l]d have never been able to have brought him to temper, or I thought it was better not to risk it.⁹¹

⁸³ There are nine letters from 1711 to 1721 concerning Williams’s marriage to Adamina Nierop and her pregnancy: NLI, MS 41,579/1.

⁸⁴ Williams Conyngham, Utrecht, to Jane Bonnell, 30 Sept. 1718 (NLI, MS 41,579/1).

⁸⁵ On 7 February 1720 William Reilly wrote from Conyngham Hall to Katherine Conolly in Dublin: ‘Mad[a]m. On Sunday even[ing] last between 6 and 7 [pm], Mr Albert dyed and yesterday even[ing] I buried between the same hours in this parrish church. It was don[e] as private as was possible, none being there but the town[s] people, and with as little expence as decency would allow. I here send the peticulars of the funeral charge and hope you won’t be displeas[e]d at it. I am madam, your most obedient serv[an]t, W[illia]m Reilly, Conyngham Hall.’ (IAA, Castletown papers, J/2).

⁸⁶ See letter no. 13.

⁸⁷ Constance Middleton (1698–1767) was the third daughter of Elizabeth Onslow (c. 1677–1742) and Thomas Middleton (1676–1715) of Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, England.

⁸⁸ Constance Middleton and Williams Conyngham were married at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London on 27 August 1719: ‘England marriages, 1538–1973’ (<https://familysearch.org>, accessed 30 Oct. 2014).

⁸⁹ Mary Conyngham, daughter of Williams and Constance Conyngham, was born on 2 August and christened at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, on 7 August 1720: ‘England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975’ (<https://familysearch.org>, accessed 30 Oct. 2014).

⁹⁰ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37), son of Williams and Constance Conyngham, was born on 24 July and christened at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London on 17 Aug. 1721: ‘England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975’ (<https://familysearch.org>, accessed 30 Oct. 2014).

⁹¹ Williams Conyngham, Dublin, to Jane Bonnell, 22 July 1721 (NLI, MS 41,579/1).

Constance and her child travelled to Dublin in late December 1721, and indicative of her turbulent married life, had to locate lodgings as her husband was nowhere to be seen.⁹² When Williams came of age in 1719 he moved into Conyngham Hall, later Slane Castle,⁹³ and continued to neglect his wife and child emotionally and financially. Their marital difficulties were a frequent subject of discussion among the three sisters, but when Katherine Conolly offered to help, Constance declined at first. However, her straitened circumstances caused her eventually to accept small amounts of assistance.

Relations between Katherine Conolly and her nephews Williams and Henry Conyngham remained difficult. She was suspicious of them, convinced after her husband's death that they cast covetous eyes on her inheritance. The fact that William Conolly, while acting as legal guardian of the boys, purchased their share of their mother's Welsh and Kent⁹⁴ estates lends some credence to their belief that these estates were rightfully theirs. Their case was not assisted by Williams persisting in his riotous lifestyle. His aunt Katherine reported to Jane Bonnell in 1730 that she had:

nather see[n] nor hear[d] of him this fortnight past but that he is ill with sad bracking⁹⁵ out in his faces and is under a course for it. But tho[ugh] confined at home [he] has an idell set of compeny with him that parts at 5 or 6 in the morning, and he rises at 5 or 6[p.m.] goes to ten, and at ten at night to diner, and at 4 in the morning to super. How he can hold out is a miricoll.⁹⁶

Williams did not 'hold out'. He died at Slane on 26 October 1738 aged 40 years. His confused and indebted estate was inherited and administered by his younger brother Henry, though Williams had made his wife Constance his sole executor.⁹⁷ Difficulties quickly arose between Henry and Constance that led to a long running dispute between them concerning her jointure and financial future. Even though Constance, whom Katherine described as 'a vall[u]able woman',⁹⁸ was strong willed, she was a woman in a man's world, and Katherine's sympathy and financial resources, which were quickly extended to 'good niece Conyngham', were quietly availed of until the dispute was settled.

Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) was less of a worry to William and Katherine Conolly than his older brother Williams, but he too was far from easy. Katherine

⁹² Constance Conyngham, Dublin, to Jane Bonnell, 29 Dec. 1721 (NLI, MS 41,579/1).

⁹³ Conyngham Hall, later called Slane Castle, Co. Meath, the home of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and later Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81). The property was purchased by the Conyngham family following the English act of resumption in 1701. Around that time, the family moved their main ancestral seat from Co. Donegal to Slane. Prior to this the Slane estate had been in the possession of the Flemings; an Anglo-Norman Catholic family who had aligned themselves with the Jacobite cause in the War of the Grand Alliance their property was eligible for confiscation after the Williamite victory.

⁹⁴ See in particular the deeds and case papers regarding William Conolly's (1662–1729) settlement of the Limavady estate in 1706 on his wife's nephews, Williams and Henry Conyngham in IAA, Castletown papers, C/6/1–15, C/47–50 and F/4.

⁹⁵ *Lege* breaking.

⁹⁶ *Lege* miracle. See letter no. 69.

⁹⁷ Last will and testament of Williams Conyngham of Slane, Co. Meath (NLI, MS 41,569/5).

⁹⁸ The word 'valuable' was much used in the eighteenth century to rate a woman's character.

described him as ‘tall as most men’ but ‘very acord⁹⁹ and of a very indolant temper.’ Like most men of his age and status he learnt to ‘dance, fence and the matthamaticks, which is all he is now capable of.’ Even though she considered him ‘good natured’, Katherine believed that he had inherited ‘some of his mother’s positive indolent ways.’ Like many second sons of his station, Henry joined the army.¹⁰⁰

Jane Bonnell acted as intermediary between Henry and his aunt Katherine when he first expressed a wish to marry. Conscious of their social status Jane voiced her regret that Henry had not told her ‘who the lady is that I might have known her famally, for, matching into a vartuos¹⁰¹ famally is of great advantage’.¹⁰² She advised him that if he was ‘really in earnest about marrying, I think you ought to acquaint your aunt Conolly with it.’¹⁰³ By January 1745, Henry was married to Ellen Merrett (1724–1816), the only daughter of Soloman Merrett of London. The shortness of his letter to Jane Bonnell, the hurried handwriting, and Katherine’s surprise at the news suggest that there was little involvement by the family in his decision to marry.¹⁰⁴ Upon hearing the news a disappointed Katherine observed that she ‘thought the exp[ect]ation of mere fortune wo[ul]d have made him wiser for that is what he has most at heart. I shall be une[a]sey till I hear again from you of this matter.’¹⁰⁵ Little more is heard of Henry’s wife Ellen Merrett. However Henry, who had inherited his brother’s estates, continued in litigation for many years with his sister-in-law Constance and his aunt Jane Bonnell. He died on 3 April 1781 in Bath, Somerset without an heir. The estate devolved to his nephew Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) who assumed the surname Conyngham.¹⁰⁶

Despite the prevailing high infant mortality, the deaths of children particularly distressed Katherine. In November 1734, William (1734–7), the first born son of William and Lady Anne Conolly was born. He was a weak and sickly child and fears were soon expressed for his survival. Katherine informed her sister Jane that ‘it was c[h]rist[e]ned emedtly¹⁰⁷ after [birth and] called William, but not till I had a promise that if it deyed I wod have another William.’¹⁰⁸ Katherine’s continuing grief at the loss of her husband was evident when she wrote sorrowfully to her sister on the occasion three years later of William’s death that ‘my consarn wod be great for any of the[i]r childrin but o[h], it’s a William Conolly that I must berry by my dear Mr Conolly.’¹⁰⁹ When Williams and Constance Conyngham’s son, sixteen year old

⁹⁹ *Lege* awkward.

¹⁰⁰ See letter no. 19.

¹⁰¹ *Lege* virtuous.

¹⁰² Jane Bonnell to Henry Conyngham, 6 July 1744 (NLI, MS 41,579/4).

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ Henry wrote: ‘Dear aunt, I was marry’d last Tuesday and if any thing can ad[d] to my happiness, it is the pleasure I flatter my self it must give to all my relations. As I am greatly hurry’d I hope youle excuse the shortness of this letter from, dear aunt, your most dutifull nephew, H. Conyngham. My wife desires her duty to you.’: Henry Conyngham to Jane Bonnell, 6 Sept. 1744 (NLI, MS 41,579/4).

¹⁰⁵ See letter no. 228.

¹⁰⁶ Francis Pierpont Burton (later Conyngham) (1721–87), son of Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

¹⁰⁷ *Lege* immediately.

¹⁰⁸ See letter no. 110.

¹⁰⁹ See letter no. 157.

William (Billy), died in 1737 Katherine's grief was more muted, remarking that 'I have had such and meny lossis that I can not be much moved'.¹¹⁰

As this suggests, Katherine had her favourites among her relations and not all children's deaths were similarly mourned. The marriage of Jane Jones, her sister Mary's daughter, to Ralph Sampson produced fifteen children most of whom died in early childhood. Katherine expressed no distress at any of their deaths; indeed she appeared heartless as to their fate, declaring that 'they ear all the most miserable rotten childrin as ever was boorn'.¹¹¹ A gift¹¹² to Jane Sampson of old linen aprons to make baby clothes stands in sharp contrast to the valuable clothes and cradle she ordered in advance of the birth of her grandnephew Albert Conyngham (1719–20),¹¹³ for the children of her former ward Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737), and her niece Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

A striking related feature of Katherine Conolly's life was her guardianship and care of various nieces and nephews. This is indicative perhaps of a sense of loneliness. Though many came under her watchful eye, a few became her favourites and feature extensively in her correspondence. As previously mentioned, following the death of her brother Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham, Katherine and William Conolly acted as guardian to his three children: Williams, Henry and Mary (Missy) Conyngham. Later she raised her niece Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36) and her grand-nieces Mary (Molly) (1726–37) and Alice (1728–45) Burton.¹¹⁴ She took great pains to educate them, dress them suitably and to present them to Dublin society. Katherine and William Conolly were involved in the financial arrangements for Missy Conyngham's marriage at Castletown in 1720 to Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744)¹¹⁵ of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, thereby ensuring that her inheritance was not entangled in the affairs of her dissolute brother Williams. Katherine observed that Frank Burton had 'the carracter of an honest, sober, good temprd man,' and thus suitable for the match.¹¹⁶ Indeed, such was Katherine's regard for Frank Burton that she became increasingly reliant on his support after her husband's death.

When Missy Conyngham and Frank Burton married, Katherine presented Missy with a long letter of advice on the conduct expected of a married woman which is notable for its wisdom.¹¹⁷ Similar though not as detailed as that written by Lady

¹¹⁰ See letter no. 154.

¹¹¹ From her description of the Sampson children's illnesses and early deaths it would appear that there might have been a genetic disorder in the Sampson family: see letter no. 198.

¹¹² This gift was not appreciated by Mary Jones, who wrote that she would have been ashamed to give them to her maid: Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 24 Feb. 1734 (NLI, MS 41,577/2).

¹¹³ Albert Conyngham, son of Adamina and Williams Conyngham, died young in February 1720 at Slane Hall, Co. Meath. Katherine covered the costs for his cradle and baby clothes which came to £11.1s. Katherine also spent the considerable sum of £61.00.7 for a cradle for Lady Anne Conolly c. 1733: IAA, Castletown papers, J/2.

¹¹⁴ Mary (Molly) (1726–37) and Alice (1728–45) Burton, daughters of Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

¹¹⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), son of Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765) and Francis Burton (d. 1714) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare and reputed nephew of James Bonnell.

¹¹⁶ See letter no. 25.

¹¹⁷ Katherine Conolly to Molly Burton, 'the day she left Castletown after she was married', 12 June 1720 (NLI, MS 41,579/8).

Frances Keightley to her daughter Catherine in 1682,¹¹⁸ it followed the standard eighteenth-century maternal advice book format. It was both pious and practical, recommending that she should ‘have no night gambells, nor never put yourself in the way of siting up leat or any frolick, for those things silldom ends in cridet to the dowers’.¹¹⁹ Katherine advised that a wife should make a comfortable and peaceful home for her husband and, with a certain degree of foresight, emphasised how to behave towards her future mother-in-law,¹²⁰ a lady who subsequently proved to be interfering and difficult. Although the evidence is unclear, Missy Burton suffered from physical and/or mental affliction.¹²¹ She and her husband spent a great deal of money on journeys to France to take the waters; when at home she spent most of her married life in bed with her dogs and children and had hysterics if she was urged to get up.¹²² Mary (Missy) Burton died young in 1737, probably of cancer.¹²³

Katherine’s next ward was the beautiful Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36), daughter of William Conolly’s sister Anne (Jane) (1678–d. *post* 1741) who married Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth and Thomas Street, Dublin.¹²⁴ When Katherine Conolly presented Anne (Nancy) at a ball in Dublin Castle she was, she claimed, the cynosure of all eyes. However, Anne (Nancy) died young and all Dublin mourned her, the redoubtable Mary Delany observing that Anne (Nancy) Pearson was ‘a young woman worth lamenting’.¹²⁵ Again Katherine’s grief at the death of a beloved niece was palpable. She sent her sister Jane Bonnell a piece of Nancy’s hair and required it be set in a ring surrounded with diamonds by which to remember her. Some of this hair remains pinned to the letter to this day.¹²⁶

The last girls ‘adopted’ by Katherine Conolly were Mary (Molly) and Alice Burton, daughters of Mary (Missy) Conyngham who married Francis Burton of Buncraggy. There is no doubt that Katherine spoiled her charges. Elaborate dresses and jewellery were bought and their rooms at Castletown lavishly decorated. When the young Molly Burton came to stay, Mary Jones reported that

my sister keeps Mis Burton extravagantly fine. She has now three mants¹²⁷ and petty coots never yet worn, one a rich gould and collers on a white ground, a blew and silver, a

¹¹⁸ See Gabrielle M. Ashford, ‘Advice to a daughter’: Lady Frances Keightley to her daughter Catherine, September 1681’ in *Analecta Hibernica*, 43 (2012), pp 17–46. Catherine O’Brien, of Dromoland, Corofin and Cratloe, Co. Clare also corresponded with Jane Bonnell (NLI, MS 41,580/22).

¹¹⁹ Katherine Conolly to Molly Burton, 12 June 1720 (NLI, MS 41,579/8).

¹²⁰ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

¹²¹ Mary (Missy) Burton became so difficult that occasionally Frank Burton had to take refuge from her quarrelling by staying in England at the house of a cousin: see letter no. 43.

¹²² See letter no. 118.

¹²³ See letter no. 124.

¹²⁴ Thomas Pearson a client of William Conolly, was MP for Killybegs, 1710–13–14; 1715–27, and for Ballyshannon, 1727–36. William Conolly provided £5,000 towards his sister Anne’s (Jane) marriage settlement to Thomas Pearson and a further bond of £1,700 to be paid after William’s death. See also NAI, M6917/94.

¹²⁵ *Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany*, i, 392.

¹²⁶ See letter no. 92.

¹²⁷ *Lege* mantles.

pinke padasway¹²⁸ trimmed to the tope of the pettycoot with silver. 4 other sutes since last spring with numbers of fine nightgouns.¹²⁹

And later, 'since I wrote last Mis Burton gote a fine pair of eaire rings. I beli[e]ve they are worth 100 pound at least. No young lady in Ierland is kept so fine nor at so great expence'.¹³⁰ A dressing room and closet was made at Castletown for Molly at a cost of over £200. Additionally, a garden and grotto with statues and walks was cut into the woods for her, which cost a further £200.¹³¹ Katherine also gave Molly a painted cabinet inscribed with their names which is still in Castletown house. Even so, Mary Jones observed rather sharply that there was 'a great adow with her baby house as if she wear but seven year old ... With all this she spends litell of her time in the drawing room with compeney but with the sarvants ... I think this is strange edicacion for a young lady near 14 year old'.¹³²

Katherine's affection for her nephew William Conolly and his wife Lady Anne and family¹³³ became more intense as she grew older. She grieved at their departure from Ireland¹³⁴ and frequently travelled to Dublin to await their return from England, sometimes waiting for weeks. Katherine was considered so interfering in the younger Conolly's affairs that when she proffered advice upon the subject of servants, Lady Anne was annoyed, responding 'pretty warmly' that when she hired servants it should be to please herself, not her husband's aunt.¹³⁵

Of all the Conolly children, the eldest, Katherine or Kety, was Katherine's favourite. When their father and mother were away in England, the Conolly children came from nearby Leixlip to stay at Castletown. Although these visits delighted Katherine, her sister Mary Jones, who was herself comfortably surrounded by her own children and grandchildren, was astonished, observing that 'I am surprised she sho[ul]d in her old eadge to be tr[o]ubled with children in her house, but its fite every body sho[ul]d dow as they lick'.¹³⁶ But while the children were always welcomed at Castletown, their mother, Lady Anne, was careful to control Katherine's access to them.

Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth), the daughter of the earl of Strafford, was well educated. In her letters to the Straffords and later to Lady Anne, Katherine acknowledged their noble station and was always deferential in her manner towards them. By his marriage into the English aristocracy William Conolly shed any vestiges of what remained of his and his uncle's provincial, and slightly doubtful, past.

¹²⁸ *Lege* paduasoy, a heavy, rich corded or embossed silk fabric, popular in the eighteenth century.

¹²⁹ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 27 Oct. (*post* 1737, *ante* 1743) (NLI, MS 41,755/5).

¹³⁰ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 14 Mar. (1741?) (NLI, MS 41,755/5).

¹³¹ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 25 July (*ante* 1743) (NLI, MS 41,755/3).

¹³² Mary Jones, Dolanstown, to Jane Bonnell, 3 July (*post* 1738) (NLI, MS 41,755/5).

¹³³ The Conolly children were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), William (1734–37), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Thomas (1737–1803), Lucy (b. 1741, died young), James (Jamey) (b. *ante* 1745), Frances (*ante* 1745–1817), Anne, Harriet (1744–71) and Caroline (1755–1817) Conolly.

¹³⁴ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 2 Aug. (c. 1738?) (NLI, MS 41,577/2).

¹³⁵ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 11 Apr. 1734 (NLI, MS 41,755/3).

¹³⁶ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 31 Aug. (n.d.) (NLI, MS 41,755/3).

After Katherine Conolly's death her nephew William and Lady Anne went to live in England. Castletown was left empty and subsequently let. Only when their son Thomas Conolly married the fifteen year old Lady Louisa Lennox (1743–1821) in 1758 did the Conolly family return to Ireland and to Castletown.

Katherine Conolly outlived most of her contemporaries and correspondents. Her sister Jane Bonnell died in March 1745, her niece Mary (Missy) Burton in 1737, and her husband Frank Burton in 1744. Her adored grandnieces Anne (Nancy) Pearson died in 1736 and Mary (Molly) Burton in 1737. All lamented and mourned, their loss was deeply and personally felt by Katherine.

Katherine Conolly died at Castletown on 23 September 1752. She was probably ninety years old. Writing to her friend Mrs Dewes, Mary Delany reflected sadly: 'we have lost our great Mrs Conolly'.¹³⁷ Her nephew William Conolly had breakfast with her that morning and afterwards Katherine said she wanted to lie down. Half an hour later she asked to be turned and at that moment she died.¹³⁸

Katherine's correspondence with her two sisters illustrates many aspects of female life in eighteenth-century Ireland — the position and status attributed to single, married and widowed women, those financially independent and those dependent on the charity and goodness of others; they provide a wonderful and at times poignant and deeply personal window into life in eighteenth-century Ireland.

¹³⁷ *Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany*, iii, 158–9.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

EDITORIAL NOTE

Two hundred and eighty-nine letters from Katherine Conolly, written between 1707 and 1747, survive. There were more, written to correspondents that we do not know of. Others may never have reached their intended recipients since, like other eighteenth-century Irish correspondents, Katherine suspected that her letters were stolen and opened.¹ She may have provided cause as she occasionally sent a coin hidden under the wax seal.² Letters could also miscarry *en-route*, a fact remarked upon by her sister Mary Jones.³ The sisters may also have selectively destroyed some letters. Writing to Jane Bonnell, Mary Jones urged her not to ‘fear your letters falling in to any bodys hands, for I burn them.’⁴ The fact that no surviving family correspondence engages with Williams Conyngham’s two marriages raises suspicions that the archive was at some stage ‘tidied’. The fact that the archive was divided and dispersed to different repositories could also account for missing or lost letters.

The letters of Katherine Conolly printed in this edition provide only one side of her epistolary life, which on occasion makes her intentions difficult to divine. Where this has arisen, similar correspondence from the Conyngham and Conolly families was consulted to provide the editors with a more comprehensive understanding and context. Nonetheless Katherine’s personality and status, which clearly defined her behaviour, are manifestly discernible in the surviving letters printed in this volume. Her correspondence with Frank Burton illustrates her growing reliance on his advice and physical presence, while that with Lady Anne Conolly reflects the vulnerability and loneliness of a wealthy, childless widow, living in eighteenth-century Ireland.

Though Katherine’s spelling is erratic, wrong and inconsistent spelling was not unusual. Women were poorly instructed in literacy; a fact commented on by Jonathan Swift who reproved Stella for her poor spelling and who described ‘a woman of quality’ of his acquaintance as spelling ‘like a Wapping wench’.⁵ Though Katherine’s spelling can appear eccentric, if the text is read aloud it is evident that Katherine’s letters were written phonetically, with a north of Ireland accent and a hint of Scots. For example,

¹ See letter no. 46. Katherine Conolly to Charles Delafaye, 3 Dec. 1728, where Katherine expresses her concern that not ‘wan in ten’ of her letters is delivered (TNA, SP 63/390/179); see also letter no. 289.

² Bishop Edward Synge suspected that some of his letters between Roscommon and Dublin were stolen in 1750: Marie-Louise Legg (ed.), *The Synge letters: Bishop Edward Synge to his daughter Alicia, 1746–1752* (Dublin, 1996), pp 247, 250.

³ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 5 Feb. (*post* 1727, *ante* 1737) (NLI, MS 41,577/3).

⁴ Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 13 Oct. (n.d.) (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

⁵ Cited in Leo Damrosch, *Jonathan Swift: his life and his world* (London, 2013), p. 229.

‘youse’ for use, ‘plase’ for please, ‘sarve’ for serve, ‘gant’ for jaunt, ‘senas’ for since, ‘wick’ for week, ‘whear’ for where, ‘ear’ for are and ‘lave’ for leave. Her use of the word ‘jackolat’ (*chocolat*) for chocolate also suggests some French influence.

To assist the reader the text is liberally annotated and the modern version of words provided where the original is obscure or not immediately recognisable. In editing the text emendation has been kept to the minimum; though Katherine’s spelling and orthography have to an extent been modernised and expanded, particularly her use of ‘Dr’ for Dear, ‘ye’ for you and ‘yr’ for your (see table below). Where a word or letter in the original manuscript is missing or unclear, or the manuscript itself is damaged, square brackets [] have been used. Otherwise spelling has been left as in the original manuscript with notes provided to assist readers negotiate the text.

Unlike her husband’s almost unreadable hand, Katherine’s handwriting is clear. However, she deployed little punctuation. As a result we have added punctuation and introduced paragraphing where this helps to negotiate the original text. In addition capital letters have been amended and abbreviated words silently expanded. Letters are arranged chronologically according to Old Style (Julian calendar, which was eleven days behind the Gregorian calendar) for day and month but according to New Style (Gregorian calendar) for the year, which is treated as starting on 1 January.

In addition, every effort has been made to identify the multiplicity of family members referred to in the text. Because of the personal nature of the correspondence, and the familiar manner to which they are referred to, individuals are identified throughout. Again in order to aid readers to negotiate their way through myriad Conollys, Conyngams, Joneses, Sampsons, Hamiltons and Leslies, full identification is provided on first mention and brief name identification on subsequent appearances. Though this has meant that the apparatus is fuller and longer than is usual in editions such as this, it has been decided to do so to minimise the opportunities, otherwise plentiful, for confusing precisely which family member Katherine refers to.

Katherine Conolly’s spellings of commonly used words			
Manuscript spelling	Standard spelling	Manuscript spelling	Standard spelling
adew	<i>adieu</i>	most	must
close	clothes	nixt	next
ear	are	noot	note
forst	first	one	own
hear	here	piss	piece
heed	head	sarvis	service
Ierish	Irish	senas	since
jackalet	chocolate	tow	two
Layslip	Leixlip	wick	week
lick	like	wrang	wrong

SECTION 1
1707-1729

LETTERS I–66

The letters in this section cover the period 1707–1729. They shed light on William Conolly's political career, the building of Castletown House, the rise of the Conyngham and Conolly families and William 'Speaker' Conolly's demise.

1. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN,¹ TO LADY SHELBURNE,² 7 OCTOBER 1707³

Dear Madam,

You are much in the right when you think I am in a hurry for truly I am as much so as any person can be at and it will be at least a week still ere I can be other ways. In that time I hope to be at a little ease. I have just got a room to sit in.⁴

Moll⁵ I am afraid is not very well. She has this day something like hives struck out on her. She was hearty and well all day but since she went to bed she is hot and moans through her sleep. But it's a common distemper a many children and I hope in God she will be well in a day or two.

I hope again that you see my new house. You will like my parlours, drawing room and my own room which is all I can possibly complete this year and those I will do gentill[e] tho[ugh] not rich.

Your news of the bishop of Down⁶ is not true. I know not but it may. Its only town talk yet. Mrs Jones marriage⁷ was when I was last in the country. There is now little news stirring only parliamentary affairs. Mrs Naper⁸ is safe landed afte[r] long blowing from their anchor from this last Monday.

¹ The Conollys' Dublin townhouse was located at the corner of Capel Street and Little Britain Street. It was demolished *circa* 1770. The site is now occupied by houses numbered 103–8.

² Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710), widow of Charles Petty, 1st Lord Shelburne, married as her second husband, Katherine's brother, Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) in 1696. Lady Shelburne was buried in St Mary's Church of Ireland, Dublin, on 10 Dec. 1710: St Mary's Parish Register

³ Dated by reference to postscript to the letter by William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴ William Conolly purchased their Capel Street, Dublin townhouse in 1707.

⁵ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737), the daughter of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710). She married Francis Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare. William Conolly and his wife Katherine acted as guardians to Mary and her brothers following the marriage of the widowed Lady Shelburne to Col Robert Dalaway (1669–1740) in 1707.

⁶ Edward Smyth (1665–1720), bishop of Down and Connor, 1669–1720.

⁷ Mary Conyngham (1675–1765), youngest daughter of Sir Albert Conyngham (d. 1691) and Margaret Lesley of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, married Richard Jones (1662–1729) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath in 1697. Richard Jones was MP for Donegal borough, 1703–13, but fell out of favour with William Conolly as a result of a disagreement about the price of land in Kilcock, Co. Kildare. Conolly left Mary Jones £400 in his will, describing her as a 'poor relation': William Conolly's will (IAA, A/7); *HIP*.

⁸ Unidentified; possibly a member of the Napper family of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

I have not time to say more. Mary and Molly Gore⁹ came last night to town. Col[one]l Wine¹⁰ landed yesterday. I shall write more at large when I have more time.

NLI, MS 15,549

**2. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S NOTE CONCERNING LADY SHELBURNE'S JEWELS,
20 OCTOBER 1710¹¹**

As fare as I can remember of my Lady Shelborns jewells
 A neckless and crosse
 A payer of pendanas¹²
 A wan stone di[a]mond ring
 A ring set round with brattunes¹³
 8 stay burkells¹⁴ and 8 tags with brillons¹⁵
 A girdell buckell set with di[a]monds
 A girdell buckell set with pearl in gould
 Her wa[t]ch and the cha[i]ne set with garnets and gated hock¹⁶ with a lurg¹⁷ locket
 set a bout with di[a]monds with Gen[era]ll Conyngham's heir¹⁸ and all his chilldrins
 heir in it and severall seals and lockets at the wa[t]ch
 A gould snuff[f] box
 A gould nick tooth lase¹⁹
 A payer of gould shar buckells
 A gould pic tooth case set with di[a]monds given my Lady by Mrs Hamilten at
 Slean
 A French pearl neckles with garnet cross and garnet pendance²⁰
 A green neckless and cross and pendantses.

IAA, Castletown papers, F/4

⁹ Unidentified, but possibly related to the family of Sir William Gore, 3rd bt, of Magherabegg, Co. Donegal (d. 1700) and Hannah Hamilton (1651–1733).

¹⁰ Lt Gen. Owen Wynne II (c. 1664–1737), a professional soldier and political ally of William Conolly (1662–1729). He was MP for Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, 1715–27, and for Sligo, 1727–37: *HIP*; see also Patrick Walsh, *The making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy: the life of William Conolly, 1662–1729* (Woodbridge, 2010), p. 100.

¹¹ Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710), Katherine's sister-in-law, who had just died. William Conolly noted Lady Shelburne's jewels 'which Capt[ain] Dallaway took away and sold which he had no right' (IAA, Castletown papers, F/4).

¹² *Lege* pendants.

¹³ *Lege* Brighton, a paste stone. Paste jewellery was very popular in the early eighteenth century: see Robert Webster, *Gems; their sources, descriptions and identification* (4th edn, London, 1983).

¹⁴ *Lege* buckles.

¹⁵ *Lege* brilliants.

¹⁶ *Lege* hook.

¹⁷ Lurg, from Manx, meaning 'agate' (Manx dictionary on: www.ceantar.org, accessed 19 Oct. 2014).

¹⁸ *Lege* hair.

¹⁹ *Lege* necklace.

²⁰ *Lege* pendant.

3. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER FROM
DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL,²¹ AT SIR RICHARD HOARE'S,²² FLEET STREET, LONDON,
5 FEBRUARY 1711[/12]

Dear, dear, sister

Your brother²³ has sayd soe much and kindly as to me that I have but littell to say as to that. When my health wants²⁴ my goeing most, my fears of any ill consequences to him by my j[o]urney gives me such une[a]sey thoughts that in spit[e] of myself I resolve to be well and stay whear I am. Tho[ugh] your brother is working like a horse to get his affears and the childrins²⁵ in such order as he may goe, yet God only knows what we shall yet doe. I thank God I am not soe bad as I was last year, yet still the old disorder remeans and I fear is to[o] much rivited to get the better of it by any meddetions.²⁶ I have bine confined this 8 day by a sore thro[a]t and could [have] dyed so sud[d]enly of a sore thro[a]t it fright[en]s every body that has had any leatly.

I am to day prity well of it. Poor brother Person²⁷ has bine much out of order this wick, but I hope is better. The children all well. Poor dear Harry²⁸ goes this wick past to Mr Chamberlins²⁹ and I hope in God will doe well. I am in heast being my dear, dear, sisters, your ever affactionate sister,

K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578

²¹ Jane Conyngham (d. 1745), second daughter of Sir Albert Conyngham (d. 1691) and Margaret Lesley. She married James Bonnell (1653–99), accountant general of Ireland. Following her husband's death Jane spent the remainder of her life in England and the letters from her sister Katherine Conolly form a substantial part of the correspondence printed in this edition.

²² Sir Richard Hoare (1648–1719) was the founder of C. Hoare & Co., one of England's oldest private banks.

²³ In letters to her sisters Katherine always referred to her husband William Conolly (1662–1729) as 'your brother'.

²⁴ *Lege* requires. The Conollys may have been contemplating a journey to Bath, Somerset, to take the waters.

²⁵ William and Katherine acted as guardians to various nieces and nephews. She is probably here referring to settlements made by William Conolly on her brother Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham's children, Williams (1698–1738), Henry (Harry) (1707–81) and Mary (Missey) (d. 1737) and to their inheritance of Williams's estate through their mother Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710).

²⁶ *Lege* medications.

²⁷ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Thomas Street, Dublin and Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, married Anne (Jane) Conolly (1684–1749) in 1707. He was MP for Killybegs, 1710–14 and 1715–27; and for Ballyshannon 1727–36: *HIP*.

²⁸ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) (later Baron, Viscount and Earl Conyngham), the second and youngest son of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham and Mary, Lady Shelburne. He was created 1st Baron Conyngham of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal in 1753. He married Ellen Merrett (1724–1816), daughter of Solomon Merrett of London in 1744: see Henry Conyngham to Jane Bonnell, 6 Sept. 1744 (NLI, MS 41,579/4); *HIP*; GEC.

²⁹ Chamberlin, a Dublin schoolmaster.

4. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER FROM NEWHALL,³⁰ TO JANE BONNELL, 16 JULY 1713

I was very glad to hear from my dear sister it being the forst this 2 months, but much tr[o]ubled to know you have bine soe extr[e]amly ill and shall be glad to hear you say your disorder is over. You ear much in the right to say you know not whear I have most time to write or any thing eles.³¹ I am sure I have few minnets I can call my one³² senas I came hear. There is now hear Mr Rigs–Jemas,³³ Leslie [from] HillsBrow,³⁴ cousen Hornbys³⁵ and 3 or 4 more fri[e]nds. I am not worse of my old disorder but I thank God rather better tho[ugh] I beli[e]ve I shall never be very well. I shall be glad to hear you answer that part of your brother's letter as to your coming to Ierland. I have not time to say more but that I am my dear, dear, sister, your ever affectionate sister and sarvant, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/1

5. WILLIAM CONOLLY [IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND], DUBLIN, TO REV. [], DUBLIN, 13 APRIL 1714³⁶

Rev[erend] Sir,

I received both yours of the [] instance and the 30th ult and am sorry upon the whole matter to find my nephew's³⁷ and niece's³⁸ circumstances so bad in all particulars. I shall not enter into the debate how liable my brothers³⁹ small assets are to the debts you mention for I think every just debt ought to be paid, and to prevent anything further then affecting the mortgage, effecting the little estate.⁴⁰ It is but just the [silver] plate etc should be sold and all debts paid and I doubt not but you will take particular care that the debts be justly due and made as easy as possible and the plate sold to the best advantage. When this is done you can in a very narrow compass show what will remain to both my nephew and niece and then I beg Colonel Hewetts⁴¹ and your

³⁰ Newhall was a Conolly house near Newtown Limavady, Co. Londonderry.

³¹ *Lege* else.

³² *Lege* own.

³³ Unidentified but possibly a member of the Riggs-James family from Co. Armagh.

³⁴ Possibly children of Canon Charles Leslie (1650–1722) and Katherine Conyngham (1623–93) or of John Leslie, dean of Dromore, from Hillsborough, Co. Down. The Conynghams intermarried with three related branches of the Leslie families. As a result the positive identification of particular Leslie members can be difficult.

³⁵ Unidentified but possibly referring to Nathaniel Hornby, William Conolly's tenant at Muff (Grocers' Proportion), Co. Londonderry in 1709: *Conolly archive*, p. 282; PRONI, D/2094/18A.

³⁶ This is the first of four letters (nos 5, 6, 24, 37) from William Conolly (1662–1729), Dublin, in Katherine Conolly's handwriting. Two (nos 5&6) are to an unidentified clergyman about the inheritance in England of his niece Frances Conolly (1700–33) and nephew William Conolly (1706–54). The children inherited property in Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire through their mother Frances Hewett. These letters are damaged and/or illegible in places: *Conolly archive*, pp 112–14.

³⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

³⁸ Frances Conolly (1700–33).

³⁹ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) who married Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710) in 1696.

⁴⁰ Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire, England, the Hewett family home.

⁴¹ William Hewett of Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire, brother of Frances Conolly (*née* Hewett).

thoughts as to the estate. I will tell you my opinion very candidly, that though the estate [] inheritance and came to my nephew, I should think it very hard he should have it without a reasonable portion to his sister and since it's the case of a brother and sister who are equally related to Colonel Hewett and me, he shall find me very just and reasonable in anything he shall think. So I can say little more till I receive your answer to this and then matters will be near a determination. I am sorry for Col[onel] Hewett's indisposition. Though I have not the honour of being known to him pray give him my service and accept of the like from ...

W[illiam] C[onolly]

TCD, MS 3974/2A

**6. WILLIAM CONOLLY [IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND], DUBLIN, TO REV. [],
DUBLIN, 15 APRIL 1714⁴²**

Sir,

My patience is clear worn out in not hearing from you about my nephew's⁴³ affairs having long since expected according to your several letters that before this the account should be sent [to] me. I have not drawn a farthing on your lands. There is now two years rent to be accounted for besides the []. This I set by to make a sum to pay a part of the debts on the estate⁴⁴ and I cannot justify letting matters stand as they now are and hope you will make me easy by getting in all that is due and transmitting the accounts that I may do what is proper. I am sensible it is your multiplicity of business that retards matters and I fear this will find you entangled in parliamentary affairs but, I hope you will set a little time apart to answer my expectations and hope, as you formerly wrote me, that the tythes are paid with all care and also the rents, and that if they are not, that you have proceeded as you designed as well about them as the derelict lands in which you were resolved to prepare a bill. Pray mind these severally and let me have your answer for I hate trouble and writing as much as I can.

I left it to your judgement and information whether it was not proper to sell the [plate?] and I hope you have now [had] proper time. I am informed that the landlord and tenants of Marchton parish⁴⁵ have a desire to apply to you for consent or leave to drive their several through our con[]. I hope you will not nor will not consent to this upon any account, but on the contrary, to take all methods to oppose it, for I am very apprehensive it will extremely prejudice my nephews estate and fall the rents thereof, and [] have [] time it must be our interest to suffer no encroachment. I could say a good deal more on this subject but I am sure you understand it so well I will say no more. W[illiam] C[onolly]

TCD, MS 3974/2B

⁴² In Katherine Conolly's hand; see note 36 above.

⁴³ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁴ Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire, England; see letter no. 5, note 40.

⁴⁵ Probably Potters Marston parish, Leicestershire, England.

7. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 8 SEPTEMBER 1716

I wrot[e] to my dear sister the very post affter I had yours and inclosed it in my brother Persons as I do wan from my sister Person⁴⁶ in this. As to the jewells, I have taken that matter quit[e] off your hands for the docter tells me he sent the misuer⁴⁷ and every other deration to Lord Cairn[e]s⁴⁸ soe I am very well pl[e]ased that I am red⁴⁹ of it as well as you. I need say nothing further to you of our nephew⁵⁰ for I dou[b]t not but you gave him all the good advise you co[ul]d before he left you. I pray God give him graci⁵¹ to mind it. We h[e]ard from Mr Caldwell from Rotterdam⁵² and so[o]ne we shall hear of him from Uitricks⁵³ wher I hope he will mind his studys to make up fer much lost and ill spent time.

I was leatly at brother Persons. They ear all prity well, only my sister compla[i]nes of her collick. Some times I came to town not very well. Your brother and I ear both in the Garmen spaw waters,⁵⁴ which I hope we shall find binifitt by them.

Sister Jones⁵⁵ was leatly in town. She has left Jeny⁵⁶ and Molly⁵⁷ at Mrs Antribuss.⁵⁸ She has kept them too long at home, they ear prity but very ackerd⁵⁹ girills. Mrs Conyngham⁶⁰ is very well and has wrote 2 or 3 times to you but never h[e]ard from

⁴⁶ Anne (Jane) Conolly (1684–1749), daughter of Patrick Conolly and Jane Coane, was William Conolly's sister; she married Thomas Pearson in 1707: see letter no. 3, note 27.

⁴⁷ *Lege* measure.

⁴⁸ Alexander Cairnes (1665–1732), MP for Co. Monaghan, 1707–27, and Monaghan borough, 1727–32, was created a baronet in 1708. He was the eldest son of John Cairnes of Co. Donegal and Jane Miller. He married Elizabeth Gould, sister of Sir Nathaniel Gould. A Presbyterian, Cairnes became a banker and was described by Swift as a 'scrupulous puppy' and a 'shuffling scoundrel' and 'what can one expect from a Scot and a fanatic' (*Journal to Stella*). Cairnes held the accounts of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and is mentioned in his will. As a result Sir Alexander Cairnes and Hugh Henry held a mortgage on the Slane estate in 1710: IAA, Castletown Papers, F/4; 'Testamentary Records' in *The Irish Genealogist*, vol. 1, no. 11 Apr. 1942, p. 343.

⁴⁹ *Lege* rid.

⁵⁰ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738), who was then touring the Low Countries: *HIP*.

⁵¹ *Lege* grace.

⁵² Christopher Caldwell, possibly a member of the Caldwell family of Castle Caldwell, Co. Fermanagh. Christopher was touring the Low Countries as tutor to Williams Conyngham. See NLI, MS 41,579/1 for correspondence from Christopher Caldwell and Williams Conyngham regarding the implications of Williams's behaviour in Utrecht.

⁵³ *Lege* Utrecht.

⁵⁴ German spa water was imported into Ireland from the continent in large quantities and drunk by those who wished to improve their health: James Kelly, "'Drinking the waters": balneotherapeutic medicine in Ireland, 1660–1850' in *Studia Hibernica*, 35 (2008–9), pp 108–9, 126–7.

⁵⁵ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵⁶ Jane Jones (c. 1717–85), daughter of Richard Jones (1662–1729) and Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765). She married Ralph Sampson (1693–1763) a Dublin merchant. The Sampson and Conyngham families were already related through marriages within the Conyngham, McCausland, Echlin and Hamilton families.

⁵⁷ Molly, short for Mary or Margaret, a daughter of Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Richard Jones who died young.

⁵⁸ Probably a school for girls.

⁵⁹ *Lege* awkward.

⁶⁰ Probably Margaret Conyngham (*née* Leslie), Katherine and Jane's mother.

you. I must l[e]ave room for your brother to say some thing⁶¹ soe shall add no more than to a[s]sure my dear, dear, sister, that I am your most affectionate sister and humble sarvant, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/3

8. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER FROM DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 JULY 1717

[Ms damaged] ... or 14 shillin[g]s prise⁶² and a black hood ... 26 shillin[g]s prise and I will thankfully repay you whatever you lay out fer me at meeting.

Doctor Cornmin⁶³ has not the stat[e] of the case re[a]dy soe I am just going out of town. Soe I send this myself to the post house, but he has promised positivally to send you this night the full stat[e] of the case himself, and I have dertected the law[y]ers as us[u]ell to S[i]r Richard⁶⁴ and br[other] Pe[a]rsons⁶⁵ dertection. I have included this to Mr Hamilton.⁶⁶ Pray keep the state of the case or get it again from the docter because I dow not know how he has done it.

I am your very affe[ctiona]te dear sister, Ka Conolly

[PS] The children ear well.

NLI, MS 41,578/2

9. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL [FRAGMENT, 1717]

Dear[e]st sister,

Inclosed is the steat of my case as fare as docter Cornmin⁶⁷ and I can make it out. Pray consult what docter you think most proper and give him what fee you think fit. I need not say any more of my self for I am tyrerd with thinking and saying all I doe opon the subject. Mr Conolly⁶⁸ has wrot[e] soe fully to you upon all matters I shall not tr[o]uble you further.

I must intreat you [to] bring me from Mr Bulls⁶⁹ 6 or 8 po[u]nd of his small cack jacklet,⁷⁰ such as he sent me last, and I must allsoe desire you to bring with you for me a fan about [?]

NLI, MS 41,578/17

⁶¹ William Conolly did not add anything in this instance.

⁶² *Lege* price.

⁶³ Unidentified, but possibly referring to Jane Bonnell's legal case against the King family: see letter no. 9 below.

⁶⁴ Possibly Sir Richard Hoare.

⁶⁵ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736), of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth and Thomas Street, Dublin.

⁶⁶ Unidentified: see letter no. 8 above.

⁶⁷ See note 63 above.

⁶⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶⁹ Unidentified London merchant.

⁷⁰ *Lege* chocolate cake.

10. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 1 JULY 1717

My dear sisters of the 30th came to hand last Sunday. Then came a packet last night but no letters from any body consarning our most undutyfull nephew. By Sunday's packet I had a letter giving an account of his and her⁷¹ being at Windser at the instalment of a Lord Kingston⁷² and that there behaveur was such and soe publick that all that saw them concluded they wear mayred.⁷³ I sho[u]ld be glad if it be soe for I sho[ul]d wear m[o]urning noe longer, for I put it one⁷⁴ as a complement to him, how⁷⁵ ill desarves it any my hands. I hear allsoe that he lives at a gre[a]t expence; whear will it end?

I saw Mrs Buckley⁷⁶ yesterday. This is a sad tru[o]blellsome time with your brother and me that if I doe not writ[e] often you most excuse it, and I have not bine very well ever senas this unhap[p]y boys mismang[e]ment.⁷⁷ Tho[ugh] I put it upon the hot we[a]ther that faints me. Mis[s]ey⁷⁸ shall writ[e] to you when my brother Person⁷⁹ or I dose not. My sister Person is in the co[u]ntrey. She will not com[e] to town not being very well and I [h]ears the town will not aggree with her. Nancy⁸⁰ is now with her. Sister Jones⁸¹ was in town last wick buying wed[d]ing close⁸² which she has bought and very fine. I see nobody soe fond of the ma[t]ch as them selves.⁸³ I shall add no more but Mr Conollys sarvic[e]s, my best sarvis and missey's duty. I am dear, dear, sister, your most affect[ionate] sister and humble sarvant, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/3

⁷¹ To the consternation of his tutor Christopher Caldwell and without the permission of his guardians William and Katherine Conolly, Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) contracted to marry Adamina Wilhelmina Nierop while in Utrecht: NLI, MS 41,579/1.

⁷² Evelyn Pierrepont (bap. 1667–1726), created duke of Kingston-upon-Hull in 1715, was lord privy seal, 1716–18, during the first Stanhope-Sunderland ministry: *ODNB*.

⁷³ *Lege* married.

⁷⁴ *Lege* on.

⁷⁵ *Lege* who.

⁷⁶ Jane Bulkeley (also identified as Elizabeth) (*née* Whitfield) (1654–1733), was the widow of John Bulkeley (d. 1699) of Old Bawn, Tallaght, Co. Dublin and Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. Her husband John Bulkeley was a good friend of James Bonnell (d. 1699) and she remained friendly with his widow Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745).

⁷⁷ Katherine is referring to the relationship between Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and Adamina Wilhelmina Nierop, as the family was unsure whether Williams's marriage was legal.

⁷⁸ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737). Until her marriage she lived with the Conollys: see note 5.

⁷⁹ Thomas (1678–1736) and Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1678–1749).

⁸⁰ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1715–36), daughter of Thomas and Anne (Jane) Pearson who later replaced Molly Burton as Katherine Conolly's ward and companion.

⁸¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁸² *Lege* clothes.

⁸³ A reference to the wedding of Jane Jones (c. 1717–85) to Ralph Sampson (1693–1763). The wedding may have been disapproved of because Sampson, who was a wine merchant, was probably considered not a good enough match for a Conyngham: see John Mackphendrie [?], to the earl of Dartmouth, London, 10 Apr. 1710 (TNA, SP 34/21/10).

11. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO ISAAC MANLEY,⁸⁴ DUBLIN, 4 JULY 1718

Sir,

This comes to intreat your kind recommending Mr Beatty,⁸⁵ who is going to England, to Mr Dellafey⁸⁶ or any other fri[e]nd. Mr Conolly wo[ul]d have wrot[e] by him to Mr Dillafey⁸⁷ but he is now bisey and we go to morrow by 5 in the morning. I know I need not give you this tr[o]uble, you being all way[s] well-inclined to sarve him, but I hope you will not due⁸⁸ it the less that it is e[a]rnestly recommended to you by your most humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

My humble sarvis to good Mrs Manly and Miss.

TNA, SP 63/376/43

12. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 11 JUNE 1719

My dear Sister

I wrot[e] to you leatly and sent you won inclosed to our unhap[p]y nephew⁸⁹ but this days packet brought your brother a letter from him in plane tarmes that he will not come. Your brother and I ear most extr[e]amly surprised, for by his of the 18[th] of May he seemed much pl[e]ased at comeing and that he wo[ul]d be at the heed⁹⁰ nixt wick, but now to find all our hopes, paines and wishes thus frustrated has given us both much tr[o]uble. For my one⁹¹ part I think he is born to tr[o]uble the quiet of my days for I am sure I know no other visiable case for my long illness but his former doeings. God forgive him for its a sad reward for all that has bine done for him by the best unkell⁹² in the world.

He sends you open his letter for your perusell with a fl[y]ing seall,⁹³ which have delivered by all means speed[i]ly into his one hand and as speedy an answer as possible for you may g[u]ess at our impatience⁹⁴ for it. This I most say that sure never any wan that had done soe much to disoblige fri[e]nds wo[ul]d have bine resaved⁹⁵ affter it in

⁸⁴ Isaac Manley (c. 1687–1735) was MP for Downpatrick, 1705–13, and for the Conolly borough of Newtown Limavady, 1715–35; appointed postmaster general in 1703, he became commissioner of revenue in Ireland in 1715: *HIP*.

⁸⁵ Unidentified.

⁸⁶ Charles Delafaye (1677–1762), under-secretary to the secretary of state, Lord Sunderland. He had previously served in Ireland as second (or Ulster) secretary, 1713–15, and then as joint secretary with Martin Bladen, 1715–17: *ODNB*; Hughes, *Patentee officers*; J. C. Sainty, 'A Huguenot civil servant, Charles Delafaye, 1677–1762' in *Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of London*, xxii (1982), pp 398–413.

⁸⁷ *Lege* Delafaye.

⁸⁸ *Lege* regard.

⁸⁹ Williams Conyngnam (1698–1738). The sentiments expressed in this letter were influenced by circumstances surrounding the death of Williams's wife, Adamina Wilhelmina (*née* Nierop).

⁹⁰ Holyhead, Anglesey, north Wales.

⁹¹ *Lege* own.

⁹² William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁹³ A flying seal on a letter which was to be left open and sealed when the recipient had read it before forwarding it on to the addressee.

⁹⁴ *Lege* impatience.

⁹⁵ *Lege* received.

soe kind a manner as your brother and I was resolved to revive⁹⁶ him, and in order there to, had fit[t]ed up an apartment for him. Convinseys⁹⁷ for his sarvants had put his sister,⁹⁸ her ma[i]de, Mr Conolly and myself, in as compleat m[o]rning as if she had bine the greatest ducks⁹⁹ daughter in England in hopes to have obliged him.

But now I most tell you what a gentellman told me, that a fri[e]nd of his told him, and came leatly from London, that he [Williams Conyngham] was fallan in to very bad and very scandallas compiny and named wan Grimes that had bine a foot-man to Lady Brodrick¹⁰⁰ and Lord Gallawy¹⁰¹ and made an ensan¹⁰² by Lord Gallawy and is now a half pay cornat.¹⁰³ I have h[e]ard the man who has a vill[e] c[h]arracter. I need say nothing to you who I am sure will l[e]ave nothing undone to get him out of such hands if possable. I wo[ul]d have you trey if docter Wellwood¹⁰⁴ can have any power with him. Your brother has wrote to Mr Topham¹⁰⁵ but doth not well know wither he is at Bath or left it. He used to have some power with him. God derect some m[e]anes to retri[e]ve him from ruine.

Dear sister, this much I wrot[e] last night affter 12 at night, and this morning when I was going to finish it I resived yours from Mrs Bucklly.¹⁰⁶ I deliv[e]r[e]d yours to your brother but you see by his to you and his answer to that unhap[p]y boy¹⁰⁷ – which is I am sure kinder then you co[ul]d have expected – is sent you soe that nather of us will writ[e] to you till we hear aga[i]ne from some of you. I was in hopes he wo[ul]d have bine wiser and that he wo[ul]d have been so hap[p]y consid[e]ring his past conduct as to have consid[e]red his one good and no body elses.

I need say no more to you [but] to l[e]ave no stone inturned¹⁰⁸ to get him over and am soe tyerd with writing allmost all night that I can add no more but that I am my dear sister, yours for ever, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Sister Jones is going to marry her daughter Jeny.¹⁰⁹ I nor no body I can meat with likes the ma[t]ch but brother and sister Jones, and Samson and his fri[e]nds. All I co[ul]d say to her when she tould me was that if she and brother Jones [agreed], I had nothing to say but good wishes. Its to be so[o]ne done. They give as good as 1500 pound without any settellment as I hear.

⁹⁶ *Lege* receive.

⁹⁷ *Lege* conveniencies.

⁹⁸ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737).

⁹⁹ *Lege* duke's.

¹⁰⁰ Anne (1658–1748), daughter and eventual heiress of Sir John Trevor, speaker of the English House of Commons, and widow of Michael Hill. In 1716 she married Sir Alan Brodrick: *HIP*.

¹⁰¹ Henri de Massue de Ruvigny (1648–1720), earl Galway. He served as one of the lords justices, 1697–1701, and 1715–17: *DIB*.

¹⁰² *Lege* ensign, the lowest commissioned rank in the infantry.

¹⁰³ *Lege* cornet, the lowest commissioned rank in the cavalry.

¹⁰⁴ James Welwood (1652–1727), a distinguished Scottish doctor who practised in London and was appointed as physician to King William and Queen Mary in 1690: *ODNB*.

¹⁰⁵ John Topham (1677–1724), MP for St Johnstown, Co. Donegal 1715–24: *HIP*.

¹⁰⁶ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733), see letter no. 10, note 76.

¹⁰⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁰⁸ *Lege* unturned.

¹⁰⁹ Referring to the marriage of Jane Jones (c. 1717–85) to Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 10.

Had you not best writ[e] to Mr Topham who is e[i]ther at Bath or at Lord Orkneys¹¹⁰ to see if he wo[ul]d goe to London and bring this cr[e]atuer¹¹¹ over hear. I am sure he will doe it if he can possibly.

NLI, MS 41,578/3

13. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 14 JULY 1719

Last night your brother reseed my dear sisters of the 9, and trully you wrong us in saying we doent writ[e] often. Except the last packet e[i]ther he or I has not mis[s]ed writing or my brother Person, and did you but see the perpetuall hurry we ear both in you wo[ul]d pity us. E[i]ther 2 or 3 letters went under cover to Mr Lenard¹¹² and wan to Mr Hore.¹¹³

As to your conduct I am sure I doe not blame you for I beli[e]ve you did every thing you co[ul]d to prevent that unhap[p]y youths¹¹⁴ distroying himself which I planely see he will doe, and senus¹¹⁵ we have done all we co[ul]d, he has nobody to blame for his undoeing but himself. I wonder you cannot find out wither they¹¹⁶ eae mar[r]yed or not, which I conclude they ear. Is he out of m[o]urning?¹¹⁷ They say he lives at a great expence and most undoe himself that way. Pray in your nixt find out what you can for as I have this wick layd by my [mourning] and missy has durtyed her furst,¹¹⁸ I wo[ul]d not buy her secoond¹¹⁹ if I thought he was mar[r]yed. As to the lord¹²⁰ and his coming over, I beli[e]ve its but talk for they will both say more than they will doe – I think they ear fit to be together. I wish I co[ul]d nather think nor hear of him for I shall never hear any thing [that] can pl[e]ases me of him.

Do you hear no more of the Lord's action against you?¹²¹ I beli[e]ve he will think better of it. I sent you an account of what your brother wrot[e] to the Lord and Lord

¹¹⁰ George Hamilton (1666–1737), 1st earl of Orkney: *ODNB*.

¹¹¹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹¹² Unidentified, possibly Mr Leonard, London, who acted as a conduit for letters between Katherine and Jane Bonnell.

¹¹³ Sir Richard Hoare (1648–1719), the London banker: see letter no. 3.

¹¹⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹¹⁵ *Lege* since.

¹¹⁶ Referring to Williams Conyngham's second marriage to Constance Middleton (1698–1767) of Mountfitchet, Essex, whose mother Anne Onslow was a sister of Arthur Onslow, speaker of the British House of Commons. The couple were married at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London on 27 August 1719: 'England marriages, 1538–1973' (<https://familysearch.org>, accessed 30 Oct. 2014).

¹¹⁷ Adamina Wilhelmina Conyngham (*née* Nierop) of Utrecht had died and thus Williams was legally free to marry Constance Middleton.

¹¹⁸ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737) had soiled her mourning clothes.

¹¹⁹ Second or half mourning followed full mourning dress some weeks or months after a death. Full mourning required black dress in matt or dull materials; second mourning was slightly less austere.

¹²⁰ An ironic reference to Williams Conyngham and his second wife Constance.

¹²¹ This reference is unclear. It may refer to a court case between Williams Conyngham and his aunt Jane Bonnell, who was one of his guardians, or to the dispute between Jane and the King family; see introduction and letters nos 160, 266 and 267.

Sunderland.¹²² You doe not mention you return them. Miss¹²³ shall writ[e] nixt post.

This minnit resived¹²⁴ yours of the 11th and need say nothing as to that ungovernabl[e] boy.¹²⁵ Full well I know what it is and has bine [this] 4 or 5 years past to govern or advise him, for I have had many a handfull and heartfull with him. I can see nothing but runnin¹²⁶ to him of all hands. As to them¹²⁷ comeing for Ierland I doe not think it f[e]aseable and I am sure it will be to littell purposs. As to m[o]urning, I shall not put it on agane. I only put it one in compliment to him in case he had come over as I expected, for other ways I owed no compliment. His sister¹²⁸ shall wear it tell I hear they ear mayred¹²⁹ and then it w[ul]d be very improper.

I saw Mrs Buckley¹³⁰ to day; she is very well with being in the co[u]ntrey. She had yours of last night. Brother Person¹³¹ was hurried out of town last wick upon account of his wife's¹³² illness and tho[ugh] they wo[ul]d not have it spoke of I can as[s]ure you she has misca[r]ried in the 11[th] or 12[th] wick but is now upon the mending. Doe not notise it to them from me. I am quit[e] tyred but still my dear, dear, sister, your most affectionate sister and sarvant, K: C:

Missis duty attends you.

NLI, MS 41,578/3

14. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 21 JULY 1719

I have my dear sisters of the 9th to me, yours of the 11th, 14[th] and 16[th] to Mr Conolly. He and I answer[e]d you of the 9th and 11th and haveing nothing new to say of that unhap[p]y boy¹³³ must make this short letter. Misy and brother Person wrot[e] you soe leatly that I have little to say, but I thought the lord¹³⁴ might be wiserer then to think any thing that boy co[ul]d do wo[ul]d be of any forse in law when he comes to age. If he sho[ul]d change his mind then, which is 40 to won he may. I am sure I dread that Lords comeing hear for its not in his power nor all the Lords in England to make Mr Conolly settell his estat[e] or dispose of it but as he thinks fit himself. He has taken great p[a]ines to get a good estate, and I am sure knows the vallaw¹³⁵ of it too well not to be hectored nor whidled out of it.

¹²² Charles Spencer (1674–1722), 3rd earl of Sunderland, non-resident lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1714–15, served as first lord of the Treasury from 1718 to 1721: *ODNB*.

¹²³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹²⁴ *Lege* received.

¹²⁵ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹²⁶ *Lege* running.

¹²⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and his wife Constance (1698–1767).

¹²⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹²⁹ *Lege* married.

¹³⁰ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

¹³¹ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹³² Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1678–1749) suffered a miscarriage and, according to her husband Thomas, did so with 'such violent shedding that they thought she would have died': T[homas] P[earson], Dublin, to Jane Bonnell, 16 July 1719 (NLI, MS 41,580/24).

¹³³ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹³⁴ 3rd earl of Sunderland: see letter no. 13.

¹³⁵ *Lege* value.

The hot[t]est we[a]ther I ever saw and last Friday for 10 hours the greatest thunder and lightning ever was seen in this Kingdom. I have neve[r] bine well sences.¹³⁶ Your brother is soe hurried he cannot writ[e] but I hope my dear sister will let me hear frequently from you, for I wo[ul]d allways know the worst for I never expect to hear any thing of him¹³⁷ that will pl[e]ase me. I am in great hast[e] but allways my dear sisters most affectionate sister and humble sarvant, Ka: Conelly

NLI, MS 41,578/3

15. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 25 JULY 1719

Your last post came to my hands yesterday and tho[ugh] I have nothing new to say yet I cannot forbear writing beca[u]se its from you we most expect to hear something of that unhap[p]y boy.¹³⁸ Nather he nor the lord¹³⁹ has ever wrot[e] senas, nor its nobodys bisness hear to take any further notise of them.

I dou[b]t not but they are married as so[o]ne as she came to age,¹⁴⁰ for they¹⁴¹ ear wisere¹⁴² than to let her marry [un]tell she co[ul]d secure her one¹⁴³ fortune for [her] self which I sopose she has done. Its well he has not done worse for he might in the marrying humer¹⁴⁴ he is in, he wo[ul]d have had some body. I am tyrd thinking of him. That was an old trick of his – when he had done any ill thing to goe about to all gentll[e]men of my acquaintances and tell them he wond[e]red what I me[a]nt by it. Even when he was clapt¹⁴⁵ before he was 14 [he] tould it to every body and he has [been] soe 3 times before he was 16. And after I found he was in the hands of qua[c]ks I was forst to have Mr Proby¹⁴⁶ to him which cost above 20 p[oun]d, which I still owe, and 50 pound I sent him before he forst mayred¹⁴⁷ which I owe allsoe, and above 140 pound of scandallous deats¹⁴⁸ I paid for him sences he went a way, but this last sume his unke[ll]¹⁴⁹ gave me 100 of it. The rest he knew nothing of nor dose not. When he was in that condition he wo[ul]d sp[e]ake to me of it with as little consarn

¹³⁶ *Lege* since.

¹³⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ 3rd earl of Sunderland: see letters nos 13 and 14.

¹⁴⁰ Constance Middleton (1698–1767) became 21, legally of age, in 1719: see letter no. 13.

¹⁴¹ Thomas Middleton (1676–1715) and his wife Elizabeth Onslow (d. 1742) of Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, England.

¹⁴² *Lege* wiser.

¹⁴³ *Lege* own.

¹⁴⁴ *Lege* humour.

¹⁴⁵ Meaning that Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) was infected with venereal disease. As early as 1711 his uncle William Conolly was writing to Jane Bonnell about the treatment Williams was undergoing for venereal disease: NLI, MS 41,578/1.

¹⁴⁶ Thomas Proby (1700–31) of Ormond Quay, Dublin, chirurgeon-general to the army in Ireland: RCPI, Kirkpatrick Archive; Thomas Proby's will, 12 May 1731, Registry of Deeds, vol. 66, p. 196 (Memorial 45793).

¹⁴⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) first married Adamina Nierop in 1717.

¹⁴⁸ *Lege* debts.

¹⁴⁹ William Conolly (1662–1729).

as if he had got a cold. Soe you may [tell] Judy¹⁵⁰ what a he[a]vey hand I have had with him.

Mr Topham is at my Lord Orkenys e[i]ther at my lords house near Raydin¹⁵¹ or at Tunbri[d]ge¹⁵² with my lord. But at my lords house in London¹⁵³ you will hear whear they ear. The parl[ia]ment still sits and your brother is allmost killed with the fetuge¹⁵⁴ and I have my shear.¹⁵⁵ I saw Mrs Buckly yest[e]rday. She is prity well. You must not expect your brother can writ[e] till this hurry¹⁵⁶ is over.

I am dear, dear sister, in great hast[e], your most affectionate sister and humble sarvant, K: C

NLI, MS 41,578/3

16. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 6 AUGUST 1719

Tu[e]sday and yesterdays packets brought 3 letters from my dear sister and I still find that boy¹⁵⁷ goes one¹⁵⁸ to his distru[c]ti[o]n. I dou[b]t not but ear this they¹⁵⁹ ear maryed and then comes on his misery, except the woman has more senas and discretion then I beli[e]ve he has. When you get more intelligens of them let us know. I fear it will be with him as with the prodigall, and if I know myself I'll say no more, but I am not his father.

I sent yours to Mrs Buckly. She is in the co[u]ntry and really very well. Brother Person was this wick at home. He tells me all was not over till last wick and that the midwife was with her again.¹⁶⁰ She has had a bad time of it. I wish you wo[ul]d give me some good advise about her for I hope she may have children if she wo[ul]d doe anything that is proper, but she will hardly be perswaded to take ph[ys]ick or any thing thats fit for her.

Now I must give my sister a littell tr[o]uble. There is a Lady Ann Nugent,¹⁶¹ a widow; that lives in Garman Street.¹⁶² A report about hear, but no certainty, she has

¹⁵⁰ Unidentified, but possibly a daughter of Jane Bonnell's who died young.

¹⁵¹ Katherine may be referring to Reading in Berkshire or Rayden in Suffolk. Lord Orkney's seat Cliveden is in Buckinghamshire.

¹⁵² Probably Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, a popular spa town.

¹⁵³ Lord Orkney's London house was at Albemarle Street.

¹⁵⁴ *Lege* fatigue.

¹⁵⁵ *Lege* share.

¹⁵⁶ Referring to the 1719 parliamentary session.

¹⁵⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁵⁸ *Lege* on.

¹⁵⁹ Williams and Constance Conyngham.

¹⁶⁰ Refers to the recent miscarriage of his wife Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749): see letter no. 13.

¹⁶¹ It is unclear who is being referred to here, but it possibly refers to Lady Anne Nugent, the daughter of Richard Nugent, 2nd earl of Westmeath and Mary Nugent who married first, Lucas Dillon, 6th Viscount Dillon of Costello-Gallin in 1681. She married second, Sir William Talbot, 3rd bt, son of Sir Robert Talbot, 2nd bt, in 1683. In 1729, William Conolly inherited land worth £800 near Trim, Co. Meath from Lady Anne Nugent: H. Worth to Jane Bonnell, 26 Nov 1729 (NLI, MS 41,580/27).

¹⁶² Germain Street, London, England.

kept 500 a year from your brother these 16 years and I have beli[e]ved her deed¹⁶³ this great while. All that your brother has wrot[e] to about her gives no positive answer. I am to have 50 pound by her death if I be the forst¹⁶⁴ intelligencer. The report comes from wan of her tennents, but they will conseall it beca[u]se they have great barg[a]ins. There is 2 Lady Nugants¹⁶⁵ living in that street. She has bine sickly these meny years but used to goe to St James Church.¹⁶⁶ Her fri[e]nds will conseall it as they did another Lady Nugant and will never let it be knowon if they can. I intreat your skill in this affear and your speedy [response]. Lord Goren¹⁶⁷ used to give some intelligance [a]b[o]ut her, now he doth not. Perhaps they have another in her places to parsonnat¹⁶⁸ her as there was hear in Ierland.

Sister Jones daughter not yet maryed. I hear of no body [that] likes it but them selves. He is a prity man; that is the best I hear, but very good hummed.¹⁶⁹

Next wick we goe to my brother Persons for a fortnight which is all the places of recess I have any whear. I am my dear sister, one,¹⁷⁰ K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/3

17. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 10 AUGUST 1719

Last nights packet brought me yours of the 4th. The parl[ia]ment still sits and your brother in a constant hurry so that he has not a minnets time to himself. He bids me tell you he wo[ul]d if you req[ui]red any present answer but that senas this boy¹⁷¹ will undow him self how can [he] help him. I [leave] for brother Persons as soon as the parl[ia]ment is up for your brother has no other places to retire to and at present he is very much out of order with heed ack and vallant¹⁷² heats. But the we[a]ther is now allmost as hot as it has bine this year. I hope they¹⁷³ will be up soe as we may get to the co[u]ntrey a Satterday.

I saw Charles Rives,¹⁷⁴ he says he has a great deall to say to me but I know not what it is. I sent your letter to Mrs Buckly, she continous in the co[u]ntrey.

Your brother gives his sarvices to you and hopes you will excuse his not writing. I pray be dilligant about what I wrot[e] to you last post about the old Lady Ann

¹⁶³ *Lege* dead.

¹⁶⁴ *Lege* first.

¹⁶⁵ The second Lady Nugent was Anne Langton, daughter of William Langton esq., who married Sir Ignatius Nugent of Killasonna, Co. Longford in 1705 (the title was conferred by emperor Charles VI).

¹⁶⁶ St James's, Piccadilly, London.

¹⁶⁷ Richard Fitzpatrick (1662–1727) was raised to the Irish peerage as Baron Gowran of Gowran, Kilkenny on 27 April 1715: *DIB*.

¹⁶⁸ *Lege* impersonate.

¹⁶⁹ *Lege* humoured.

¹⁷⁰ *Lege* own.

¹⁷¹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁷² *Lege* violent.

¹⁷³ Parliament.

¹⁷⁴ Unidentified; members of the Ryves family lived in Rathallagh House, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow which was beside the Bulkeley estate.

Nugant¹⁷⁵ for we have no account yet of her [death], but her tennants and those that [benefit] by her d[e]ath has it among them, and I beli[e]ve there is a trick in them to conseall it. She has bine long ill. I include this beca[u]se I have an old frank by me and saw no English parl[ia]ment man to day. I am in heast dear, dear, sister, your ever affactionate sister and sarvant, K: C:

[PS] I thought the frank had bine Mr Lenard¹⁷⁶ but I was mistaken.

NLI, MS 41,578/3

18. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER FROM DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 FEBRUARY 1719[/20]

I need not say much to my dear sister upon what your b[rothe]r¹⁷⁷ has sayd in this affear of our ness¹⁷⁸ but that as young woman and furtun[e]s¹⁷⁹ encrase soe I sho[ul]d think myself hap[p]y to have her well provided for in my life time – which is but pracar[i]ous – and indeed soe is her furton for now. Lo[o]keing over the settellm[en]ts upon this occasion, tho[ugh] the portion be upon the English esteat[e] its sub[j]ict to such and such lemmations¹⁸⁰ that there most be a su[i]te for it with her b[rothe]r¹⁸¹ and the trustees. And by Lady She[l]burns¹⁸² deed in settelling upon her there is a cla[u]s[e]s that if ever M[oun]t Charles esteat[e]¹⁸³ sho[ul]d be at any time evedted¹⁸⁴ she is to have but the half of the 50000 p[oun]d. This is such a clog that if its known few men will be teyed¹⁸⁵ down to a settellment when there may be at some time or other a drawback. And just now Dean Leslie and his wife¹⁸⁶ who ear both doting, has begone a law su[i]te ag[ain]s[t] M[oun]t Charles for a 1000 p[oun]d they say are oweing by my father,¹⁸⁷ which no body hear knows anything off and [was] never mentioned among my b[rothe]rs¹⁸⁸ list of deets¹⁸⁹ and judg[e]m[en]ts. But Mr Conolly that fears the consequences of her falling in to her b[rother]rs hands and if anything sho[ul]d kill either him or I, I lo[o]ke upon her [to be] in very unhappy curcimstancis. I've all these things considered, and that Mr Burtone¹⁹⁰ bears the

¹⁷⁵ Lady Anne MacDonnell: see letter no. 16.

¹⁷⁶ Unidentified: see letter no. 13.

¹⁷⁷ William Conolly (1662–1729).

¹⁷⁸ Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737), daughter of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710).

¹⁷⁹ *Lege* fortune.

¹⁸⁰ *Lege* limitations

¹⁸¹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁸² Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710) married Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) in 1696.

¹⁸³ The Conyngham family estate at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal.

¹⁸⁴ *Lege* evicted.

¹⁸⁵ *Lege* tied.

¹⁸⁶ Possibly Rev. Henry Leslie (1651–1733), archdeacon of Down, and his wife Margaret (*née* Beaghan).

¹⁸⁷ Sir Albert Conyngham (d. 1691) of Mount Charles House, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

¹⁸⁸ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707).

¹⁸⁹ *Lege* debts.

¹⁹⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

c[h]arracter of an honest, sober, good-tempre d man, I am generally pl[e]ased with the ma[t]ch.

And now that I have tould you how her fortune stands, I have allsoe to tell you how kind Mr Conolly is in the affear in takeing all these things upon himself, both as to securing the whole fortune ag[ains]t all cla[i]mes from the M[oun]t Charles esteat and allsoe to secure the fortune clire¹⁹¹ and without any law su[i]te or tr[o]uble from her b[rothe]r and the trustees in England. Soe if he wear not soe good to dow this for her who co[ul]d. And to my knowledge he desir[e]s much better for her. But after the ungreatful usage he has met with from her b[rothe]r he will never [ley?] himself up aga[i]ne.

This affear has gone no further than lo[o]keing into settellm[ent] and rent rolls, but I most needs say I hope it will dow, and sho[ul]d be glad of your thoughts of it. The girell knoss¹⁹² noe more than as she hears it [from] the comman chat, and wonders they tell her of Mr Burton. And I beli[e]ve and am pri[t]y sure she likes him soe fare as she thinks him a man of sences and a sober man; for nothing eles co[ul]d pl[e]ase her. She is tall tho[ugh] thin, very healthy, and co[ul]d I be sure of wan I co[ul]d like as well a year hencis¹⁹³ I sho[ul]d be content it wear not so[o]nner. But those ear things not in wans one power and when I consider her mother and a[u]nt, I cannot but wish her well provided for, tho[ugh] I most say she is a very desent, well fash[i]on[e]d, sober young woman and I have nothing to take amiss in her conduct

I have tyred you and myself and shall only add what dow you hear of her b[rothe]r for I never [hear] from him? I am dear sister yours, K. C.

NLI, MS 41,578/2

19. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 15 MARCH 1719/[20]

I had my dear sisters last packet and has noe further to tell you as to our nesis¹⁹⁴ affear then what I tould you in my last but that things are going on in a slow manner. The la[w]yers being all gone seurcite¹⁹⁵ and that there most be a tearme about fines and recoverys and the like.

As to your mon[e]y you layd out for me some years agoe, I tould Mr Conolly of it and he says it runs in his head that about 3 or 4 years ago you wrote for it and that it was pay[e]d but he is not sure of it till he looks over some accounts and papers which he will doe as soon as he can have lasure,¹⁹⁶ but what between the Commissions board¹⁹⁷ and Castle¹⁹⁸ he has not a minnet to himself, for there is but 2 commiss[i]oners

¹⁹¹ *Lege* clear.

¹⁹² *Lege* knows.

¹⁹³ *Lege* hence.

¹⁹⁴ *Lege* niece's. An unidentified niece, but possibly Frances Conolly (1700–33), daughter of Patrick Conolly (d. 1713) and Frances Hewett of Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire. She married William Rewse (d. 1745).

¹⁹⁵ *Lege* secret.

¹⁹⁶ *Lege* leisure.

¹⁹⁷ The Revenue Commission Board of which William Conolly was first commissioner.

¹⁹⁸ Dublin Castle, the seat of government.

and 2 Lords Justi[ce]s,¹⁹⁹ and he has not bine but a wick at Castelltown sence last October, but he will lo[o]ke as so[o]ne as possible.

As to Har[r]y,²⁰⁰ God derect us for I know not what to doe with him. He is as tall as most men and very acord²⁰¹ and of a very indolant temper. He l[e]arns to dance, fence and the matthamaticks, which is all he is now capable of. Good natured, but some of his mother's positive indolent way. He has a mind to the army which his unkell and I has not. I have no more to say till I hear agane from my dear sister but that we ear all prity well, and that I am my dear sisters most affactionate sister and sarvant, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/3

20. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO MOLLY BURTON,²⁰² 12 JUNE, 1720

My dear child

As you ear now ent[e]red into a new steat of life, and will have the ieys²⁰³ of many p[e]opell upon your behaveur, words and actions, I think it incompart²⁰⁴ upon me to recommend some things to your pertick[u]ler care and consideration.

First, let no worldly affears ever make you neglect your duty to God, which is the chi[e]fe end we ear sent into the world, and to be his grace to give and conduct you in all your affears spirituall and temperall. Let no exampell of what kind soe ever make you omit your duty to Him how²⁰⁵ is our great createur and presurver of all that call and trust in him, and you shall never want my prayers for his blessing upon you and all your actions, for your hap[p]yness is as much my consurn as my one.²⁰⁶

2[nd]ly. Let your duty and affection to your husband be your nixt care as is your bounden duty. His parson²⁰⁷ and all his consarns to be your chi[e]fe delight. It is your int[e]rist as it is your duty to be kind and affactionate to him, to make your parson and hummer allwayes e[a]sey and aggre[e]able to him if any thing, as its impossable but sometimes there will, sho[u]ld make him une[a]sey or out of hummer, never be so then but by good hummer and kindness find out what has made him soe, and if it be any action of you[rs], inde[a]ver never to do soe aga[i]ne. If it be any thing as to famally affears, spear no p[a]lines nor care to prevent it not

¹⁹⁹ The lords justices appointed on 25 Nov. 1717 were Archbishop William King, Viscount Midleton and William Conolly; Midleton was not sworn until 22 May 1718: *NHI*, ix, 492.

²⁰⁰ Their nephew, fourteen year old Henry Conyngham (1707–81), son of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham and Mary, Lady Shelburne. He became a cornet, then lieutenant, in the 4th Dragoon Guards in 1725 and captain in the Royal Irish Dragoons. He was aide-de-camp to the lord lieutenant in 1738, captain 1738–40 and colonel in chief c. 1752: *HIP*.

²⁰¹ *Lege* awkward.

²⁰² Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737) married Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare in 1720. She is referred to in her early years as Missy and in later years as Molly.

²⁰³ *Lege* eyes.

²⁰⁴ *Lege* incumbent.

²⁰⁵ *Recte* who.

²⁰⁶ *Lege* own.

²⁰⁷ *Lege* person.

hap[pe]ning again, for a kind look and a soft word may turn away much wroth and sorrow from yourself.

3ly Pay the same duty to his mother as you wo[ul]d to your one or to me. But if it sho[ul]d be your misfortunate not to pl[e]ase her, conseall nothing from your husband (for I am sure she will not), but let him know freely what it is, and [discuss] all such matters openly and freely before him, for as I am sattisfeyed he loves you and is good hum[ou]erd, he will be soe much your fri[e]nd (now that he has taken you soe fare²⁰⁸ for all your one²⁰⁹) as to let no body thaurt²¹⁰ you or make you une[a]sey in your one house, for it is and all ways was my oppounon²¹¹ that all duty to parrants sessis²¹² when a wife's eass²¹³ and quite is in question, and I know you soe well that you will not compla[i]ne but where you have good re[a]son for it. As for his other fri[e]nds as sister and brothers, be kind and civell, but still be mistress of your one house, your thoughts and acttions, for now you ear acco[u]ntable to non[e] but God and your husband for what you doe, and whear any of his fri[e]nds fealls²¹⁴ in the love and respect they owe you, make no scrupell of let[t]ing him know it and let it not pra[y]e upon your spirits, for you have not a body nor temper to strug[g]ell with such things. Make nather fri[e]ndships nor intemesey²¹⁵ with any body for they offten prove the ruien²¹⁶ of young p[e]opell. So let only your husband be master of your thoughts and fri[e]ndshipes, but still be civell and obliging to all your n[e]ighbo[u]rs and acquaintances but trust to non[e] of them, for now you goe into a strang[e] co[u]ntery whear your mother in law has lived long and the gaiety and briskness of her temper has made her have many fri[e]nds and acquaintances how²¹⁷ will be soe many spieess²¹⁸ upon you. Soe I beg you, my dear child, be upon your g[u]ard as if all you meet with wear enemyes, though I am sure non[e] will be soe to you when they know you, but never feall of being obliging and chirfull²¹⁹ when your n[e]ighbo[u]rs and acquaintanes comes to your house, for the sivell part is don[e] to all while they ear so to us.

Won thing more I must e[a]rnestly recommend to you; have no night gambells, nor never put yourself in the way of siting up leat or any frolick, for those things silldom ends in cridet²²⁰ to the dowers,²²¹ nather will your health nor inclinations allow it. But above all things let no commands nor incitements ever make you doe it without your husband be with you, and if you find he likes it, endever by fear²²²

²⁰⁸ *Lege* far.

²⁰⁹ *Lege* own.

²¹⁰ *Lege* thwart.

²¹¹ *Lege* opinion.

²¹² *Lege* ceases.

²¹³ *Lege* ease.

²¹⁴ *Lege* fails.

²¹⁵ *Lege* intimacies.

²¹⁶ *Lege* ruin.

²¹⁷ *Recte* who.

²¹⁸ *Lege* spies.

²¹⁹ *Lege* cheerful.

²²⁰ *Lege* credit.

²²¹ *Lege* doers.

²²² *Lege* fair.

m[e]ans and degrees to bring him off] it. Compley re[a]d[i]ly with him in any inosent²²³ recreation, let no une[a]seyness or clummer²²⁴ be hurd in your famally, but a che[c]k to the forst²²⁵ quaaralls among your sarvants. Make your house and conversation so e[a]sey to your husband's home and you may still be more aggre[e]able to him then any thing he can meet a broad. These things I most recommend to you to obsarve by all the tyes of love and duty you owe me, and let no wick pass or nor heed theirs, and ear and earnestly think how fare you have obsarved or neglected them.

You may judg[e] by what I have sayd how far your peaces, your cridet and ha[p]pyness is my care. God bless you and make you hap[p]y, which is the prayers and wishes of, dear child, your affectionate a[u]nt, K. C.

NLI, MS 41,578/8

21. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 30 MARCH 1721

I had my dear sisters last packet and was in hopes you wo[u]d have given me some account of our nephew and ness Conynghams²²⁶ thinking of Ierland, but your saying nothing of it makes me take this op[p]ertunity of telling you what I hear, which is that they are taking a house in London, which, if they doe, I shall deat²²⁷ there utter runin from. They have gone a great way towards it allre[a]dy, and I can see no other way nor method can be taken [to remedy their financial situation] but his emedetly coming to Ireland and living at Conyngham Hall²²⁸ or, if that will not doe, in Dublin. But you know that [Conyngham Hall] is a good house and as good has lived there as ever will again. And if he wo[ul]d [do] this, singe²²⁹ his brother Burtons²³⁰ deeds for his portion, or but doe any[thing] that he is desired by his best fri[e]nds for his one advantig, which is all that ever was or will be disired of him to doe, he might then hope his fri[e]nd wo[ul]d then think of the most proper method for his int[e]rest and sarvisas. But if he continiue still refractrey to all that is desired and will not come over, how can he think it possible or expect any fri[e]ndship or sarvices from them. For while he lives at London and at such a redicklls²³¹ expenc[e] he puts it out of any bodys power to sarve him. If he did but hear how [he] is laughed at and reduculled²³² by all sorts of p[e]opell, nay even by those that ear

²²³ *Lege* innocent.

²²⁴ *Lege* clamour.

²²⁵ *Lege* first.

²²⁶ Despite continuous promises to return to Ireland, Williams and Constance Conyngham remained in England following their marriage. Their first child, Mary Conyngham, was born on 2 August 1720 and baptised in St Martin-in-the-Fields church, London on 7 August; Mary probably died but there is no record of her death. Unknown to Katherine, at this time Constance was pregnant with their second child: see letter no. 25.

²²⁷ *Lege* date.

²²⁸ Conyngham Hall, later called Slane Castle, Co. Meath, the home of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and later Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²²⁹ *Lege* sign.

²³⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, Williams Conyngham's brother-in-law. He was MP for Coleraine, 1721–7: *HIP*.

²³¹ *Lege* ridiculous.

²³² *Lege* ridiculed.

genners²³³ by his foollish expences, it wo[ul]d make him ashamed as it offten doth me, and wo[ul]d I am sure make him retrench, tho[ugh] I hear from all hands that he has a sarvant called his gentll[e]man that is soe very perfus[e] and extravagant that they say his expences by feast and intertenm[en]ts ear prity near his masters.

Your brother had yours last post. Wan from him²³⁴ which is all he has had from him [though] he has wrot[e] to him senas Dec[em]b[e]r last. He had wan likeways from Col[one]l Montgomery²³⁵ with a list of deets,²³⁶ but by what he has himself tould to gentll[e]men of Ierland is fare²³⁷ short of the sume he owes. But to non[e] of these letters will your brother give any answer to till he hears Mr Burtens²³⁸ deeds ear singed.²³⁹ For it gives him much tr[o]uble not to have Mr Burton made [e]asey, who is a sober good man with out the least thought of extravagancy, but une[a]sey till he can settell his just deets. When he hears these deeds of Mr Burtons is singed he will then answer yours, his, and the Col[one]l [Montgomery]s letters, and doe whats proper as fare as is consistant with re[a]son. This is all I shall say upon this mallincolly subjict. Only pray God to send him graas²⁴⁰ to mind his one int[e]rest and to oblige his fri[e]nds.

His sister is very [big?] tho[ugh] not yet quick.²⁴¹ I am [with] great heast, my dear sisters most affactionate sister, [your] sarvant, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/3

22. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 9 MAY 1721

Dear sister,

I am much surprised by yours of the 4[th] of May to your brother²⁴² that you have not h[e]ard from me senas my ness Burtons illness.²⁴³ I wrot[e] the forst post after. I sent you the receat²⁴⁴ for the Whit[e] Ballsam.²⁴⁵ She is well recov[e]red and had as good a time as ever any body had, nor wan hours disorder, nather favorish²⁴⁶ nor any bad simptiam²⁴⁷ senas, but recovers as well as her mid-wife and nurse keeper can wish her. She'll come down stears.

²³³ *Lege* gainers.

²³⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²³⁵ Alexander Montgomery (1677–1722), of Ballyleck, Co. Monaghan, MP for Co. Monaghan and colonel of the Co. Monaghan militia: *HIP*.

²³⁶ *Lege* debts.

²³⁷ *Lege* far.

²³⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²³⁹ *Lege* signed.

²⁴⁰ *Lege* grace.

²⁴¹ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) was pregnant.

²⁴² William Conolly (1662–1729).

²⁴³ Referring to complications surrounding the pregnancy of Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737). Mary and Frank Burton's first child, Francis Pierpont was born in 1721. He was MP for Killybegs, Co. Donegal, 1753–60, and for Co. Clare, 1761–76. He became the 2nd Baron Conyngham in 1781, when he took the name Conyngham: *HIP*.

²⁴⁴ *Lege* receipt or recipe.

²⁴⁵ White Balsam (*Gnaphalium polycephalum*), was a popular eighteenth-century medicine.

²⁴⁶ *Lege* feverish.

²⁴⁷ *Lege* symptom.

I hope to morrow your brother sends you the inclosed which is a copy of our nephews²⁴⁸ last letter in answer to that [which] was sent to you whear in you see, except about Mr Burtens²⁴⁹ deeds, there is not any sort of answer given to any other part of it.

Your ness and nephews gives you their duty. I am my dear sisters most affectionate sister and sarvant, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/3

23. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 17 JUNE 1721

I have not any of my dear sister's letters to answer, nor have I had any answer to sev[e]r[a]ll letters from my nephew.²⁵⁰ Nor can I tell wither he be in London or whear he is so that I find it is to no purpuss for me to writ[e] to him, for he takes no notiss of my letters nor any advise I gave him. This now sarves to tell you the mallancoly news of poor Black Tom Knoxes²⁵¹ death, who went well to bed Sat[ur]day night last and was found dead in bed nixt morning. This poor man was a feathfull fri[e]nd and agent to the famally and will be an unexpressibell loss to that poor unfortunate co[un]trey which I beli[e]ve is the most miserable of any in the King's dominions. I know not yet wither Capt[ain] Knox has made any will. I fear not, soe that affair will be in great confussion.

He is the 3[r]d agent of that esteat²⁵² that has deyed senas Lady Shelburns desess,²⁵³ so that if my nephew²⁵⁴ has any regard for himself he ought to hasten over and settell his affears which ear in very bad way. And I am graving²⁵⁵ at and infirme and not soe fit for bisniss and [it is] high time for him to lo[o]ke into his one affears, as I offten told you. I now again as[s]ure you that I would not for all his estates have the tr[o]uble, unisiness²⁵⁶ and vexation I have had about it. I am confideant in the whole [that] whear it lays there is not 50 po[u]nd in mon[e]y. The tennants ginnerly²⁵⁷ ear starving for want of bread; the most of there cattell deed and not a pen[n]y for those they have left. God help us, for we are in a miserable condition. There is upward of a years rint dew on that esteat and I as[s]ure you it will be with [difficulty] the Crown rint can be refund[ed] out of it.

I wish you wo[ul]d make my nephew senceable of all this and that it [is] now more just and honorable in him to come with his lady str[a]ight over and settell his affears then to spend his youth and time there. I have from time to time wrot[e] soe

²⁴⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁴⁹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁵⁰ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁵¹ Capt. Thomas Knox, agent for the Conyngham estate at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, was a man of some consequence with estates of his own.

²⁵² The Conyngham estate at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal that Williams had inherited.

²⁵³ *Lege* decease. Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710): see letter no. 1, note 2.

²⁵⁴ Williams Conyngham.

²⁵⁵ *Lege* grieving.

²⁵⁶ *Lege* uneasiness.

²⁵⁷ *Lege* generally.

much on this subject that I am quit tyerd of it. I have wrot[e] to the co[u]ntrey²⁵⁸ to take the best care that they can till I hear from my nephew. There ear a great meny who have wrot[e] to me about the agency but I wo[ul]d give noe incurigmt²⁵⁹ to any body till I know my nephew's thoughts, but it most be a man of great activity and honesty and one that is well acqu[a]inted with the esteat and of good repute and int[e]rest to defend and protect the poor p[e]opell.

I beg pardon for this long letter and am my dear sister's most affectionate sister,
Ka: Conelly

[PS] Senas the writing [of] this I hear Capt[ain] Knox has made a will and left all his fortune to his brother-in-law and [to] his children but some inconsiderable legseys.²⁶⁰

IAA, Castletown Papers, A/8

24. WILLIAM CONOLLY [IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND], DUBLIN, TO GRAFTON,²⁶¹
8 JULY 1721

My L[or]d,

I have the honour of your Grace's of the 29[th] last aqua[i]nting me with the promises that are made in behalf of our great man.²⁶² I will not take up your Grace's time on that or about poor Capt[ain] [Abel?] Ram's²⁶³ commission, since I hope to see your Grace so[o]ne hear and that you are soe good to respite that matter till your Graces' arrival.

As to what your Grace is pleased to mention about the bank,²⁶⁴ and that the gov[ernmen]t men will be so[o]ne over and that I may have an eye to our fri[e]nds get[t]ing in, I can give no pertickler answer till I see what methods is [*sic*] resolved upon. When the charter arrives hear I then will tr[o]uble your Graces with a letter. In the mean time, I return my hearty thanks for your Grace's fri[e]ndship about my nameing anybody. I am apprehencive that as matters stand circumstraned in this king doom, threw²⁶⁵ the great scarcity of mon[e]y and want of trade, it will be with the utmost deficutly²⁶⁶ that meny who are subscribers and others who desire to come

²⁵⁸ Referring to the Mountcharles estate in Co. Donegal.

²⁵⁹ *Lege* encouragement.

²⁶⁰ In his will dated 15 September 1717 Thomas Knox left money to his family and a large number of friends, relatives and servants. He left his setting dogs to Ralph Gore: *Abstract of Wills*, i, 221.

²⁶¹ Charles Fitzroy, 2nd duke of Grafton (1683–1757), a lord justice of Ireland, 1715–17, and lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1720–24.

²⁶² Possibly referring to Charles Spencer, 3rd earl of Sunderland (1675–1722), who though recently resigned from political office retained influence with Conolly. In a letter of 11 July Conolly told Charles Delafaye he would take care of a pension for a client of Sunderland's: TNA, SP63/380 f. 36. The editors are grateful to Patrick Walsh for this reference.

²⁶³ The Ram family of Gorey, Co. Wexford, returned a succession of members of parliament. It is not clear which member of the family is referred to here. The Ram family were also related to Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733) who features in many of Katherine's early letters.

²⁶⁴ Referring to the Bank of Ireland charter of 1721: see Patrick Walsh, *The South Sea Bubble and Ireland: money, banking and investment, 1690–1721* (Woodbridge, 2014).

²⁶⁵ *Lege* through.

²⁶⁶ *Lege* difficulty.

in, will be able to raise the forst payment if it be considerable. A littell time will show this. What rema[i]nes at present is to assure your Graces that noe body can be more sencesable²⁶⁷ of all the obligations conferred upon my L[or]d, y[ou]r Grace's most feathfull humbl[e] serv[an]t, W : C.

A copy of a letter to L[or]d Lieu[enan]t, July the 8th 1721

IAA, Castletown papers, A/3/30

25. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 30 JULY 1721

Dear sister

I had yours yesterday and am glad our nephew has a son.²⁶⁸ Pray make his unkells²⁶⁹ compliments and mine to his lady.²⁷⁰ A wick agoe his unkell tould him he wo[ul]d have the child, if a boy, cal[l]ed either Hary or William and he is still of the same mind, so if he have not that derection all re[a]dy, you have it now.

He²⁷¹ went out of town yesterday with a great deall of compeny with him to Conyngham Hall, among the rest his great governer Mr Morris²⁷² that came out of England with him and by what I find can do more with him than any body in this kingdoom. I have sent his letters affter him this morning by Mr Madin²⁷³ that came hear for the forst time and deliv[e]red me yours, and he I know, he has bine in town this month. He has now [I] hear, Madin, Crolly a gro[o]m, 2 run[n]ing footmen – which I never saw any won have 2 but he – and his agant, wan Conyngham, that he brought over. All these at board wages and he has not a notchon²⁷⁴ of saveing and goes on in every actstravagncy²⁷⁵ that Dublin will allow, as much as he can doe any whear. Nothing is done yet as to his deets²⁷⁶ nor as yet will he hear of being put in any sure method of paying them by let[t]ing his English esteat be given up for the security of them, nor a thousand other things. But when he comes back and any thing done, your brother²⁷⁷ will writ[e] fully to you. As to Grimes,²⁷⁸ all prudant car[e] will be taken but it [is] not possible such a wan can ever have any incurigmt²⁷⁹ [in] this house.

I expect my nephew and ness Burton²⁸⁰ the middall of August. I wish Willi[am]s wear as good, prudant and adviseable as Frank Burton who I think one of the best

²⁶⁷ *Lege* sensible.

²⁶⁸ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37), the second child and only son of Williams (1698–1738) and Constance (1698–1767) Conyngham, was baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields church, London on 17 Aug. 1721.

²⁶⁹ William Conolly (1662–1729).

²⁷⁰ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁷¹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁷² Unidentified.

²⁷³ Unidentified.

²⁷⁴ *Lege* notion.

²⁷⁵ *Lege* extravagancy.

²⁷⁶ *Lege* debts.

²⁷⁷ William Conolly (1662–1729).

²⁷⁸ Unidentified servant and confidant of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁷⁹ *Lege* encouragement.

²⁸⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham (d. 1737)).

sort of young men I know any whear. Your brothers sarvis and mine attends yours. A Tu[e]sday nixt your little cousin Adams²⁸¹ I[e]aves this for London and takes 10 g[u]ine[a]ys with him for you to give at the c[h]rist[en]ing of our young nephew.²⁸² Your brother desir[e]s you wo[ul]d get some proper parson²⁸³ to stand for him. The packet is just going out.

I am my d[ea]r sisters most affectionate sister and sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] If your nephew has given no derection to the contrey²⁸⁴ your brother wo[ul]d rather have it cal[l]ed Henry.

NLI, MS 41,578/3

26. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 22 JANUARY 1721/[22]

I had my dear sisters by the last packet and haveing hardly any way to send your letters free makes me sildom writ[e] to you.

Last Sunday evening my nephew and ness Conyngham²⁸⁵ came to town to see me. She, I think, is a prity good well behaved woman and if I am not mistaken will make a good wife. She says she is much pl[e]ased with the co[un]trey. As so[o]ne as I h[e]ard they wear come your brother²⁸⁶ and I went to see them, which I am sure was no small compliment from me that has not made a visit to any body these 5 years in Dublin nor in a house, except some evenings that I went to the Castell to weat on the Dutchis of Graften.²⁸⁷ They have constantly dined with us and I toke her to the Castell to interduse her to the Dutchis, and your brother and I have bine as sivell to her as was possible, but I co[ul]d never injage²⁸⁸ her upon any sort of disco[ur]se of her husbands affears. Only I wanst tould her as meny things of his extrav[a]gant sarts²⁸⁹ as I co[ul]d, and told her whilst he kept such he wo[ul]d never doe well nor live on any tarms²⁹⁰ with his co[un]try n[e]ighbo[ur]s. She seemed sencable it wo[ul]d²⁹¹ before they went away yesterday.

I have by the Duchess of Graftons groom of the Chambers sent you the pouders²⁹² and Ierish sheat.²⁹³ I think I formerly gave you the directions as to the pudrs.²⁹⁴ If I did not I will as so[o]ne as I hear from you.

²⁸¹ Unidentified, but would appear to be a relative of Jane Bonnell through the Bonnell family line.

²⁸² William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

²⁸³ *Lege* person.

²⁸⁴ *Lege* contrary.

²⁸⁵ Williams (1698–1738) Conyngham and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁸⁶ William Conolly (1662–1729).

²⁸⁷ Henrietta Somerset (1690–1726) in 1713 had married the 2nd duke of Grafton, lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1720–24: *ODNB*.

²⁸⁸ *Lege* engage.

²⁸⁹ *Lege* sorts.

²⁹⁰ *Lege* terms.

²⁹¹ *Recte* was.

²⁹² *Lege* powders.

²⁹³ *Lege* sheet.

²⁹⁴ *Lege* powders.

The sess[i]ons is now I thank God well over tho[ugh] it has bine the most tr[o]ubellsome wan I ever saw.²⁹⁵

Your nephew and ness Burton²⁹⁶ gives you there duty – I do not know if she is breeding, she is very thin – Mr and Mrs Pe[a]rson and Nancy²⁹⁷ are alsoe your humble sarvants. Wither your brother will wri[e]t this packet or no[t] I cannot tell, for he is still in a hurry. I am my dear sisters most affactionate sister and humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/3

27. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER FROM DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 FEBRUARY 1722[/23]

You see my dear sister that my laseness gets me some scoulds but truly I cannot help it for I have more things of every kind to doe that I can get well throw[gh] and I have soe littell to say [that] co[ul]d pl[e]ase you that I think its as good [to] be silliant.²⁹⁸ Theo Clements²⁹⁹ is in his fathers³⁰⁰ plase. Mr Conolly wrot[e] the minnet he h[e]ard of his death to both the vice-treasurers³⁰¹ and they very kindly did it, and I hope he will doe very well in it. Cousen Clemons has left all his famally pretty well now depending on Theo, his mother lives with him and his unmarried sister and a b[rothe]r³⁰² that is under him in ...

NLI, MS 41, 578/2

28. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL [c. 1722[/23]

... the treasury. Poor Frank Burton³⁰³ has been much out of order of leat with a v[i]ollant collick and p[a]ins which has confined him these six wicks. I h[e]ard last post but wan and he was then free of p[a]ine, but wack. She³⁰⁴ is very well, not breeding that I hear off. I sopose you have h[e]ard that Mr Conolly made b[rothe]r

²⁹⁵ This probably refers to the hotly contested debates over the establishment of a national bank in Ireland in which Conolly was centrally involved.

²⁹⁶ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

²⁹⁷ Anne (Jane) (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749) and Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) and their daughter Anne (Nancy) (1712–36).

²⁹⁸ *Lege* silent.

²⁹⁹ Theophilus Clements (1687–1728), son of Robert Clements (1664–1722) and Elizabeth Clements (*née* Sandford) (d. 1745), MP for Cavan borough, 1713–28, and sovereign of Cavan in 1724.

³⁰⁰ Robert Clements (1664–1722) of Rathkenny, Co. Cavan, formerly Collector of the revenue at Drogheda.

³⁰¹ Hugh Boscawen (c. 1680–1734), 1st Viscount Falmouth (1720) and Sir William St Quintin (c. 1662–1723), appointed vice-treasurers of Ireland on 16 June 1720.

³⁰² Robert and Elizabeth Clements had 8 surviving children: Theophilus (1687–1728), John, Robert (d. 1723), Henry, Nathaniel (1707–77), Elizabeth, Mary (d. 1780) and Lydia.

³⁰³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

³⁰⁴ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) married Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare in 1721

Pe[a]rson³⁰⁵ Collector of Drogheda in Clemons³⁰⁶ plaas. I am much mistaken if I did not writ[e] this to you before.

Our nephew and his lady³⁰⁷ lives in the co[u]ntrey. I doe not hear she is with child – but I find they live in an odd sort of a way with out care or thought, and wan that hears how things is manniaged wo[ul]d think all poor. Lady Shelburnes³⁰⁸ servants wear there again or indeed a worse set. Harry³⁰⁹ is in town, I hear no bad thing of him. He is good ententioned and beloved by his acquaintunces. I pray God send him gracis to doe well.

I hope you will not accuse me again of lazeyness. I am my dear, dear sister, your affect[ionate] sister and sarv[an]t. Ka. Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/2

29. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON [1723]³¹⁰

Dear sister,

Last night before candells came in I oponed the enclosed but when I found it was for you I did not reed the half of it. I am prity well, so is your brother. Mr Topham³¹¹ continues very ill. Yours, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/18

30. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CLOTHILDE EUSTACE,³¹² BRISTOL, 23 JUNE 1723

Last packet brought me the favoure of Miss Eustiss of the 13th and you cannot immagine³¹³ the ple[a]suer it allways gives me to hear from you, for you need make no oppolligy³¹⁴ for your not haveing news to enterta[i]ne me with from the sweet city of Bristol. Its enough to me to hear from you and that you are well. I was tould to day that you doe not think of comeing over this winter, but as I have not seen my lady³¹⁵ senas I sent her yours, I can not tell what truth is in it.

The buship³¹⁶ and his compeny did not arrive hear till this morning. I made your compliments to them which they returned, and drunk your health in to the barg[a]in in a bomper.³¹⁷ Dublin fills, but littell news sturing.

³⁰⁵ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736), of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth and Thomas Street, Dublin, Katherine's brother-in-law.

³⁰⁶ Robert Clements (1664–1722); see letter no. 28.

³⁰⁷ Williams (1698–1738) and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

³⁰⁸ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) married Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710) in 1696.

³⁰⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1706–81), son of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710).

³¹⁰ Fragment not dated: see letter no. 32.

³¹¹ John Topham (1677–1724): see letters nos 12, 30 and 32, note 105.

³¹² Clotilda Eustace (b. 1700) was the daughter and co-heir of Sir Maurice Eustace (d. 1708) of Harristown, Co. Kildare and Clotilda Parsons (d. c. 1752). She married Thomas Tickell (1685–1740) in 1726: *HIP*

³¹³ *Lege* imagine.

³¹⁴ *Lege* apology.

³¹⁵ Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752).

³¹⁶ It is not clear which Church of Ireland bishop is referred to here.

³¹⁷ *Lege* bumper: a large glass of wine.

I h[e]ard last post from the north but not a word of the affair.³¹⁸ You know in that letter wot [?] which never used to feall³¹⁹ in, but the last time I saw my lady,³²⁰ which was about 4 days agoe, she showed me a long letter from him which I sopose she has tould you off. I send this to night in case my lady sends me wan to inclose. If not it shall goe nixt.

I am sor[r]y to hear poor cousin Stratford³²¹ as yet finds no benyfact³²² by the watters nor you no more devartions then formarly. I wish you both may so[o]ne.

Mr Conolly³²³ bids me say meny kind things to you from him and that he longs to see you e[i]ther laugh or as the spirit moves you. His sarvis³²⁴ and mine to cousin Stratford and beli[e]ve me dear miss, you have not in the world a more sencear³²⁵ fri[e]nd and feathfull sarvant then, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] You see my letter has stayed for the inclosed which my lady sent me yesterday, but the packet was gone e[a]rilly, but there goes wan gener[a]lly at 12 a clock. My lady did me the faveur to dine with us yesterday (a Satterday diner) and stayd till ten.

Dublin, June 23.

Tickell papers

31. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CLOTILDA EUSTACE,³²⁶ 13 AUGUST 1723

I had the favoure of dear Miss Eustiss of the 8[th] last night and wan to my lady,³²⁷ and at the same time 2 others to my lady which ear sent to her house. She is expected home every hour.

My nephew Conolly³²⁸ is not yet arrived hear. I beli[e]ve no body can think or find much devartion at Bristol but I can not dou[b]t but he was [reluctant] to part with you and his other good acquaintancs, Mr Topham.³²⁹ I find by yours and Mr Tophams one³³⁰ letters that he is still very ill. He writ[e]s me that you carryed the bell from all the ladys at a ball as being the prityest³³¹ lady there.

I can say nothing as to what you sayd, senas its your fixed opponnon³³² to Mr Topham in relation to [his marriage proposal], for there is no other mortall but you on [earth] can judge for you. All your fri[e]nds can judge the outward advantiges

³¹⁸ Katherine is referring to the proposal of marriage by John Topham (1677–1724) to Clothilde Eustace (b. 1700): see letter no. 32.

³¹⁹ *Lege* fail.

³²⁰ Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752): see letter 30, note 312.

³²¹ Possibly referring to the wife of Captain Strafford of Brownstown, Navan, Co. Meath: see Mary Jones to Capt. Strafford, Brownstown, Navan, 30 Jan. [*post* 1721, *ante* 1737] (IAA, Castletown papers, A/1).

³²² *Lege* benefit.

³²³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

³²⁴ *Lege* service.

³²⁵ *Lege* sincere.

³²⁶ Clotilda Eustace: see letter no. 30, note 312.

³²⁷ Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752), mother of Clotilda Eustace, of Harristown, Co. Kildare.

³²⁸ William Conolly (1706–54) see letter 30, note 312.

³²⁹ John Topham: see letters nos 12, 30 and 32.

³³⁰ *Lege* own.

³³¹ *Lege* prettiest.

³³² *Lege* opinion.

but yourself only whats within your one bre[a]st, and this you know was allways my opponon, which offten senas made me sillant³³³ [about] what that affear [that] was soe offten talked off before me. And this you know is true, so senas its over, I shall say no more on that heed but you shall allways have my best wishes for everything that may make you hap[p]y, for I sencerely wish your welfare. I beli[e]ve you will so[o]ne think of goeing to Bath whear all the compeny being more compact and offten together, it will be much more aggr[e]able to you.

Our Lord L[i]eut[enant]³³⁴ is not yet landed but expect[ed] to morrow and then for a wick we shall have nothing but hurry. If my lady³³⁵ comes before I seall this you shall know it.

Mr Conolly³³⁶ gives you his sarviss and best wishes for every thing thats to your satisfaction, and I am dear madam, with the greatest truth, your most sencear fri[e]nd and humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My sarviss to Cousen Stratford.³³⁷ I am sor[r]y she finds so little bynifict³³⁸ of the waters.

Tickell papers

32. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CLOTILDA EUSTACE,³³⁹ 10 OCTOBER 1723

I had the ple[a]suar of yours by the last packets and I find dear Miss Eustiss complain[s] of my growing a bad correspondent. I beli[e]ve you must judg[e] me more favourably of me, for I hope you have reseved³⁴⁰ my last which I wrot[e] to you, tho[ugh] then I had non[e] from you. I sent my lady³⁴¹ the 2 that came to her by that packet.

I am glad you ear like[ly] to make less of the dullness of Bristol by an overset of devations.³⁴² Pray when you see Mrs Dallavell³⁴³ make her my compliments and tell her I am very glad to find she has not forgot me. Upon all accasions I am inquiring affter her and sho[ul]d be glad to know how Mrs Collins³⁴⁴ and her tow nesses³⁴⁵ [are] and as[s]ure them all of my humble sarviss.

³³³ *Lege* silent.

³³⁴ 2nd duke of Grafton (1683–1757): see letter no. 24.

³³⁵ Referring to her mother Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752).

³³⁶ William Conolly (1662–1729).

³³⁷ The wife of Captain Strafford of Brownstown, Navan, Co. Meath: see letter no. 30.

³³⁸ *Lege* benefit.

³³⁹ Clotilda Eustace: see letter no. 30, note 312.

³⁴⁰ *Lege* received.

³⁴¹ Clotilda Eustace: see letter no. 30, note 312.

³⁴² *Lege* diversions, meaning social amusements.

³⁴³ Unidentified.

³⁴⁴ Unidentified.

³⁴⁵ *Lege* two nieces, unidentified.

Mr Topham³⁴⁶ for the most part continu[e]s prity well and is growon much fatter. He talks every day of undergoing his oppration³⁴⁷ but I beli[e]ve while the we[a]ther continius soe fear³⁴⁸ he will not.

I am glad you ear soe hap[p]ly as to have an acquaintins in my lady's famally and that you [have] the ple[a]suer of my Lady Blan[e]y's³⁴⁹ compeny there this winter. Make Mr Conollys³⁵⁰ and my compliment[s] to her and Mr Dearing.³⁵¹

Mr Topham charged me with his to you in a very pertickler³⁵² manner. The old gentellman³⁵³ and I had a small discourse in the affear you know.³⁵⁴ He is of [the] oponnon³⁵⁵ its advise you have got on that side of the watter, and he allsoe thinks he is the cause of your not coming to Ireland this winter, which he bid me assure you gave him as much [pain/distress] as your refusal. That he sho[ul]d be unhap[p]y [in] case your denyng³⁵⁶ yourself the compeny of your fri[e]nds. But you might return when you pl[e]ase for senas it was not aggr[ee]able to yourself he sho[ul]d never tr[o]uble you more, but allways to be your well wisher and must [reconcile] himself to this purpos. I sayd all I thought proper and soe we came home.

As for news, I have non[e], hearing nothing but parl[ia]ment[ary] affear[s] of which I am heart[i]ly tyerd and shall be more soe before they have done. For all the hurry Mr Conolly is in he never forgets to charg[e] me with his compliments to you, his and mine. I am with great truth dear madam, your feathfull fri[e]nd and humble sarvant, and attends your sister.³⁵⁷ I am with great truth your feathfull fri[e]nd and humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Mrs Burton³⁵⁸ recovers well but her littell baby³⁵⁹ is not like to doe soe well being forsed³⁶⁰ to take it off the bre[a]st before it was 10 days old. They think to put it on the [ms damaged]

Tickell papers

³⁴⁶ John Topham (1677–1724): see letter no. 12, note 105.

³⁴⁷ *Lege* operation.

³⁴⁸ *Lege* fair.

³⁴⁹ Mary Cairnes, second wife of Cadwallader Blaney (1693–1732), 7th Baron Blaney, and daughter of Sir Alexander Cairnes: *HIP*

³⁵⁰ William Conolly (1662–1729).

³⁵¹ Probably Edward Dering, MP, deputy clerk of the council in Ireland.

³⁵² *Lege* particular.

³⁵³ John Topham (1677–1724): see letter no. 12.

³⁵⁴ John Topham had proposed to Clothilde Eustace (b. 1700) possibly while they were both in Bristol, England: see letters nos 30 and 32.

³⁵⁵ *Lege* opinion.

³⁵⁶ *Lege* denyng.

³⁵⁷ It is unclear who Katherine is specifically referring to here as Clothilde Eustace had seven sisters.

³⁵⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³⁵⁹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87), son of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

³⁶⁰ *Lege* forced.

33. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO WILLIAM CONOLLY'S LETTER TO JANE BONNELL, 31 MARCH 1734

Dear sister,

Its very leat and I am to goe e[ar]ly in the morning to the country for Mr Conolly's sister Smith³⁶¹ deyd last Saterday and [I] cannot get our m[o]rning, soe must withdraw till then. My sister Pe[ar]son³⁶² is hear. I'll writ[e] more at Lurg³⁶³ so[o]ne. I am my dear sister, your most affect[ionate] sister and sarv[an]t. Ka. Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/2

34. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO CLOTILDA EUSTACE,³⁶⁴ 19 DECEMBER 1724

I am no letter in dear Miss Eustis deet³⁶⁵ but this comes as a vallerter³⁶⁶ to wish you a mer[r]y Christmas and meny hap[p]y new years. A Tuesday I go to my brother Persons³⁶⁷ and [stay until] affter the holydays, so till my return to town I shall not have the ple[a]suer to writ[e] again to you.

I have no news to enterta[i]ne you with, only Lord T³⁶⁸ has fallen out with Lady Mo[u]n[t]joy³⁶⁹ and has used her as I hear very oddly, has forbid his wife³⁷⁰ to see her for he tould her it was all her doeings and that he had done them a greater honner to ma[t]ch into there famally then was ever done before, and that if Lord Mo[u]n[t]joy deed,³⁷¹ he wo[ul]d tear the esteat to pissis³⁷² for his wife's portion, and say[s] his wife sho[ul]d not goe dangling affter her [entitlement/portion]. They wear all at the Castell hall³⁷³ but did not look at wan another. The lord and his wife³⁷⁴ came and went together, as he lets her goe no whear without him, but very silldom³⁷⁵

³⁶¹ Mary Conolly (d. 1734) married Thomas Smith of Lisgoole, Fermanagh.

³⁶² Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

³⁶³ In 1720 William Conolly purchased the manor of Newporton, Co. Fermanagh. Lurg was a barony in the county. Katherine probably intended to stay there.

³⁶⁴ Clotilda Eustace: see letter no. 30, note 312.

³⁶⁵ *Lege* debt.

³⁶⁶ This word does not occur in the *OED* but the context would suggest a greeting card.

³⁶⁷ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

³⁶⁸ Field Marshal James O'Hara (1681/2–1773), 2nd Baron Tyrawley and 1st Baron Kilmaine, married in November 1724 Mary Stewart (d. 1769), daughter of William Stewart, 2nd Viscount Mountjoy and his wife Anne Boyle. Most of the Tyrawley estates were let on long leases or for lives renewable to such families as the Knoxes and Gores: <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie> (accessed 12 Jan. 2015); *ODNB*; *DIB*.

³⁶⁹ Anne Boyle, Lady Mountjoy, daughter of Murrough Boyle, 1st Viscount Blessington and Lady Anne Coote, married Sir William Sterwart, 2nd Viscount Mountjoy. They had one son William Stewart (1709–69), 1st (and only) earl of Blessington.

³⁷⁰ Mary Stewart (d. 1769): see note 368 above.

³⁷¹ *Lege* died.

³⁷² *Lege* pieces.

³⁷³ Dublin Castle.

³⁷⁴ 2nd (and last) Baron Tyrawley and Mary Stewart (d. 1769): see note 368 above.

³⁷⁵ *Lege* seldom.

abroad or seen at home by anybody. They are still at Mr Westenras.³⁷⁶ I sopose the nixt falling out will be with wan another ... [remains of letter missing]

Tickell papers

35. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 JUNE 1725

I had my dear sisters yesterday and am glad to hear from you and hopes senas you make no compla[i]nts that your cough is better. I wish now that the green wheat³⁷⁷ is fit for it, that you wo[ul]d get some of it [di]stilled in a cold still. It should be cot³⁷⁸ near the gro[u]nd, stalks and all stilled. If you wo[ul]d put in a handfull or 2 of e[i]ther the little whit[e] spell or the [?] shall [?] it would be the better, and for some time [to] drink a glass of it warm – night and morning – sweetened with a littell bro[w]n suger candy. I have known it doe much good for wack³⁷⁹ longs.³⁸⁰ If you doe it this is the best time to [di]still green wheat.

I have re[a]son to make the same compla[i]nt you doe for I have not had a line by the last 5 packets that came hear. If I did not hear by others I sho[ul]d conclud[e] that they³⁸¹ wear both ill. But soe many Irish being at Bath and writing to there fri[e]nds hear I believe they wo[ul]d mention if anything wear amiss with them, soe I hope it is only leaseyness,³⁸² for I know Molly³⁸³ [*sic*] doth not love writing.

I sent Mrs Buck[e]ley³⁸⁴ hers [letter] and send her this frank if she intends to writ[e] this post. Your brother gives you his sarvis and says he wo[ul]d writ[e] but has nothing to say and he is in a great hurry at bisness. Dose our nephew³⁸⁵ talk of comeing over?

I am my dear sisters with truth, your most affactionate sister, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/4

36. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 JUNE 1726

I had my dear sisters of the 26[th] yesterday and am glad you have we[a]ned the child,³⁸⁶ for to have sent a nurse with it against her will wo[ul]d have done more hart³⁸⁷ to the child then good, and such a sarvant as you mention is much more maningeable³⁸⁸ then a wet nurse.

³⁷⁶ Warner Westenra (1706–72), MP for Maryborough: *HIP*.

³⁷⁷ Green wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) was recommended to improve the digestion and cleanse the liver.

³⁷⁸ *Lege* cut.

³⁷⁹ *Lege* weak.

³⁸⁰ *Lege* lungs.

³⁸¹ Mary (Missy) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³⁸² *Lege* laziness.

³⁸³ Although she is referred to from hereon as Molly, Katherine is referring to her niece and ward Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³⁸⁴ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733)

³⁸⁵ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³⁸⁶ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³⁸⁷ *Lege* hurt.

³⁸⁸ *Lege* manageable.

I allsoe saw yours of the 28[th] to your brother. You may be sure both he and I ear tr[ou]bled at what you writ[e] but what I have long known. As to the mother³⁸⁹ she is the worst illnated old [?] and flurt³⁹⁰ in the world, and that poor girill³⁹¹ has suffered greatly by her. I never made a scrupell to tell Frank³⁹² my opinion freely of her. But her lying plasabull³⁹³ way often got the better of my truth. As to his sister,³⁹⁴ she is her one³⁹⁵ daughter in all perticklers, and when she and her mother was at varrincoy³⁹⁶ then she wo[ul]d tell such storys of her mother, tho[ugh] true, [that were] not fit for a daughter to tell. I then made my remarks on her temper, but senas they wear reconsiled [to] the famally she is ma[t]ched in to, has had little comfort. Before that she was sivell and humbell, but so[o]ne affter the old gentell woman turned out of doors, much against the sons³⁹⁷ mind. But he is a good natured quiet man and as he says, for peaces will doe any thing, and this reconsilliaten had never bine made but for Molly.³⁹⁸ The mother used, when Frank was furst mar[r]yed and went home, to open all my letters to them. When I found she did soe I wrot[e] such a wan to get her out of the house as did it effectually, for she flew out in a pattion³⁹⁹ at her son and went off, but stript the house of most things and then gave him my letter, which trully I wrot[e] it for the very way it happeaned.

Now as to what you writ[e], its a thing cannot be done for Mr M⁴⁰⁰ is on his ouath⁴⁰¹ and we must find out some other way which your brother hopes in time he may. And both he and I think these things is better [left] then to give the poor girill une[a]seyneess, and if she doth her duty and love her husband and he her,⁴⁰² I sho[ul]d vallaw⁴⁰³ non[e] of them for its that must make her hap[p]y. I pity her from my heart and prays God to comfort her and send her health and that her husband may not be any way influenced by 2 such wicked beasts, for they have great power over him. As to the baby,⁴⁰⁴ its hard it sho[ul]d suffer and I am sure she shall have dubill my care and love.

³⁸⁹ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765), daughter of Thomas Tilson, clerk of the Irish House of Commons, married Francis Burton (d. 1714).

³⁹⁰ *Lege* flirt.

³⁹¹ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) wife of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744). The sisters were concerned at the way her mother-in-law Alice Burton treated Missy. Jane Bulkeley described Alice as ‘a very sharpe woman and I believe has a great deal in her power’: Jane Bulkeley to Jane Bonnell (1720) (NLI, MS 41,580/4).

³⁹² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³⁹³ *Lege* plausible.

³⁹⁴ Frank Burton’s sister, Mary Burton, who remained unmarried.

³⁹⁵ *Lege* own.

³⁹⁶ *Lege* variance.

³⁹⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³⁹⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³⁹⁹ *Lege* passion.

⁴⁰⁰ Unidentified.

⁴⁰¹ *Lege* oath.

⁴⁰² Referring to marital difficulties between Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and his wife Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁰³ *Lege* value.

⁴⁰⁴ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

This minnit the packet is come in and has bro[u]ght yours of the 31[st] and I am h[e]art[i]ly glad Molly has had curri⁴⁰⁵ge and resolution [to] tell her husband. Its what I allways advised her to doe as you may see by the copy of a paper I gave Molly a few days after she was mar[r]yed.⁴⁰⁶

Nather⁴⁰⁷ Climons nor his wife⁴⁰⁸ is in town, nor has not bine senus⁴⁰⁹ March. I shall spake to Clemons of it as is proper, but poor man, he will be cry and swear he cannot help it. I hope to take some eff[ect]u[a]ll course in this matter and if you think proper send the inclosed affter Frank or not as you pl[e]ass.

Let me know when the child l[e]aves you that I may order Mr Dunleavy⁴¹⁰ to take care. By Tuesday or Wedensday I shall have a nursery well fit[t]ed up for them.

I was just going to seall this as the packet came in, and if I writ[e] to Frank I fear I shall lose it, soe cannot enlarge but to as[s]ure my dear sister I am a true sufferer with poor Molly, and yours most affect[i]o[n]at[e]ly, K: C:

[PS] Some time or other send me back my long paper for its only a hasty copy of what I gave Molly⁴¹¹ and I wo[ul]d not have it se[e]n.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

**37. WILLIAM CONOLLY [IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND], CUSTOM HOUSE, DUBLIN,
TO THOMAS CLUTTERBUCK,⁴¹² 18 JULY 1726**

Sir,

I have the favour of your letter of 30[th] of last month which I communicated to my bre[a]theren of this board,⁴¹³ who all agree w[i]th me in the most respectful regard for all recommendations from his Excellency⁴¹⁴ and Mr Chancellour of the Exchequer. But I am sorry to acquaint you that we find a compliance in this case of Mr Philips⁴¹⁵

⁴⁰⁵ *Lege* courage.

⁴⁰⁶ See letter no. 20.

⁴⁰⁷ *Lege* neither.

⁴⁰⁸ Theophilus Clements (1687–1728), elder brother of Nathaniel Clements (1705–77), was teller of the Exchequer. He married before 1723, Elizabeth (d. 1748), eldest daughter of Francis (d. 1714) and Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765). A. P. W. Malcomson has described Clements as William Conolly's 'most senior and trusted lieutenant' (*Nathaniel Clements: government and the governing elite in Ireland, 1725–75* (Dublin, 2005), p. 19).

⁴⁰⁹ *Lege* since.

⁴¹⁰ It is possible Katherine is referring to her brother-in-law John Dunlevie who married an unnamed sister of William Conolly (1662–1729). He may have been returning from England and thus the baby Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37) was entrusted to his care for the journey: see also letter no. 84 below.

⁴¹¹ See letters nos 20 and 36.

⁴¹² Thomas Clutterbuck (1707–92) was MP in the British parliament for Liskeard, 1722–34, and Plympton Erle, 1734–42. He was MP for Lisburn in the Irish parliament, 1725–42, and chief secretary to Lord Carteret, lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1724–30.

⁴¹³ The board of the revenue commissioners.

⁴¹⁴ John Carteret (1690–1763), 2nd Baron Carteret, lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1724–30. In 1742 he succeeded as 2nd Earl Granville.

⁴¹⁵ Unidentified.

to be impracticable; for excepting the few that follow, all the places in our disposal fall very short in value of his pretension, and all that comes near it require a long and thorough experience in the execution, and cannot safely be given to persons unacquainted with the laws and practice of the revenue; which you will readily believe, when I have told you that the only employments of the value desir[e]d are The Clerk of the Quit Rents, the three Surveyors General, the Coll[ect]ors of this port and of the port of Cork, the Coll[ect]or of the Inland Excise of in [*sic*] this city, and the two Examiners of the Customs.

I shall only add that by our rules, no person can be appointed an officer in any of the upper stations who has not first serv[e]d in some inferior post of the same branch.

I am with great regard, your most faithfull humble servant, W. C.

IAA, Castletown Papers, A/3

38. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 DECEMBER 1726

I had my dear sisters last Sunday night with the the [*sic*] dismall story of our unfort[un]ate nephew.⁴¹⁶ It is beyond any thing I have meet with or any extravagancy he has yet commit[t]ed. I h[e]ard nothing of it till yours but senas I have h[e]ard from others of it. For God sack⁴¹⁷ tell me did the woman betr[a]y him to her husband or how com[e] he to the knowledge[e] of it. I am certain that villain Rusell⁴¹⁸ will betray him to get his o[w]n libirty if he can l[e]arn whear⁴¹⁹ he is. I h[e]ard about a wick agoe he was gone to Holland which I was pl[e]ased with for fear of his being again clapt⁴²⁰ up. For my part I think him mad and am sure non[e] of his age can parallall him for all manner of extravaganc[e]s. You may beli[e]ve his unkeell and I ear under a great deall of tr[o]uble about him, this being soe very scandollus an affair.

I showed your letter to Har[ry]⁴²¹ who I have perswaded⁴²² not now to goe to London. I wo[ul]d f[a]ine have had him paid his sisters bill 100 po[u]nd. He wo[ul]d not, but I hope he will doe more then that, for he is in great curcomstancs,⁴²³ for he aowed to me yesterday he had 200 po[u]nd by him, 600 that is owing him and he is selling woods in the co[u]ntery for 6 or 700 po[u]nd, and he owes but about 50 in all Dublin. For he is very saveing of his one⁴²⁴ money tho[ugh] very extravagant when I had the keeping of him. Then he has the pay of his troop and his [crown] rent dew. He says if he doe[s] not goe in spring he will send a car[e]full sarvant for the child⁴²⁵ and keep him at scoull⁴²⁶

⁴¹⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738). It would appear that Williams had become involved in an amorous affair which necessitated his immediate flight to Holland.

⁴¹⁷ *Lege* sake.

⁴¹⁸ Unidentified.

⁴¹⁹ *Lege* where.

⁴²⁰ Reinfected with venereal disease.

⁴²¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81), Williams's brother.

⁴²² *Lege* persuaded.

⁴²³ *Lege* circumstances.

⁴²⁴ *Lege* own.

⁴²⁵ His nephew Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁴²⁶ *Lege* school.

hear, but if you thought it better to keep him there, you had best writ[e] soe to him your self. I hope his sister⁴²⁷ will writ[e] so[o]ne to him for he expects she will.

Your brother had yours with a very large packet to Mrs Buck[e]ley⁴²⁸ which I gave her. He is now in too great a hurry to writ[e].

The death of our good Lord Chanc[el]ler⁴²⁹ has put us all, and indeed every wan that knew him, in the utmost tr[o]uble for I never h[e]ard any man soe univarcely lmented by all sorts and degrees of p[e]opell as he is. I pity his wife and children and his old father of all things. He was wan of the greatest and l[e]arnedest men of his age, for reading was too much his bissness, for except when he went to court he reed⁴³⁰ at least 8 or 10 hours every day which did him hurt for he silldom stured⁴³¹ out.

I l[e]ave Harys letter open for you to reed and seall and deliver. I can say no more but beg I may know all that you know of this unhap[p]y wrach.⁴³² For I heat and pity him, for I am sure if he is gone any whear he has not 5 po[u]nd in his pocket. I shall add no more for my heart is too full, but am my dear sister, most affac[tionately], K: C:

[PS] My last letter from Frank⁴³³ was of the 12[th] Nov[em]b[er]. Still baby⁴³⁴ has got 2 up[p]er teeth, wan to be seen, the other felt. I beli[e]ve she is about more but very hearty and well. She has had those very e[a]sey I thank God. She can stand alone and steps by wan hand but a poor little caward⁴³⁵ for every thing fright[en]s her. I wrot[e] to Frank leatly and sent him a very larg[e] packet. From the contents this came sencs,⁴³⁶ which pray send to Mr Bart[h]olomew Burten⁴³⁷ to be sent to him. Pray put this letter to my nephew Conolly⁴³⁸ into the post offices.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

⁴²⁷ Mary (Miskey) Conyngham (d. 1737).

⁴²⁸ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

⁴²⁹ Richard West (c. 1691–1726) was appointed lord chancellor of Ireland in July 1725. He was noted for his interpretation of the penal laws, holding that there had to be a conviction before property was confiscated; on occasion he deprived protestant plaintiffs of their costs if he held that their action, though legal, was unfair. He married Elizabeth Burnet, daughter of Gilbert Burnet (1643–1715), bishop of Salisbury: *NHI*, ix, 510; *ODNB*.

⁴³⁰ *Lege* read.

⁴³¹ *Lege* stirred.

⁴³² *Lege* wretch, referring to Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴³³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴³⁴ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁴³⁵ *Lege* coward.

⁴³⁶ *Lege* since.

⁴³⁷ Possibly Bartholomew Burton (c. 1695–1770) a London merchant and financier who dealt substantially in bank stock (<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org>, accessed 12 Jan. 2015).

⁴³⁸ William James Conolly (1706–54), son of Patrick Conolly (d. 1713) and Frances (*née* Hewett) (d. 1720) of Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire. He married Lady Anne Wentworth in 1733 and they had at least ten children. William Conolly made him his heir: *HIP*

39. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 FEBRUARY 1726[27]

My dear sister,

I have had no letter for 3 or 4 packets last that came in and tho[ugh] I have now little to say more than that we ear all prity well, tho[ugh] your brother compla[i]nes much this wick⁴³⁹ of a cold all over him. Last wick my dear baby⁴⁴⁰ was much out of order. I thought it was teeth, which I beli[e]ve still, for her gumes is swoled⁴⁴¹ and has bine so for neer a month past by fits, but she has had a great disorder allsoe in her stomach. Co[ul]d contrive no sort of vittels she wo[ul]d eat but as her meat, and not above 2 or 3 spo[o]nfulls at a time was forced⁴⁴² down, [but] she vomited every thing. I gave her r[h]ubarb⁴⁴³ and salt of wormwood⁴⁴⁴ but she co[ul]d not keep it [down] tho[ugh] I tryed 2 or 3 sev[e]rall times. But affter a glister she grew better and I give her twist⁴⁴⁵ a day simpell pouders of crabs legs⁴⁴⁶ with a littell salt of wormwood which she kept. She is now come aga[i]ne, I thank God, to her meat and I hope this is over. She has heart[i]ly fright[en]ed her unke[ll]⁴⁴⁷ and me. For I was soe gri[e]ved for her, for she lo[o]ked soe pityfully at me that I am sure I suffer[e]d more then she did, but now she is hearty and brisk again and thoe no teeth, yet this is over. I h[e]ard leatly from Molly.⁴⁴⁸ She says nothing of there healths⁴⁴⁹ nor makes any compla[i]nts. The letter was to your brother.

Last wick our unhappy nephew drew a bill on his unke[ll] at sight:⁴⁵⁰ ‘pay this my forst bill according to my last advise to you’ – for vallawe⁴⁵¹ refer[r]ed hear but no such advise is come. But last packet he has wrot[e] 2 letters to gentll[e]men hear that with the advise and consent of all his fri[e]nds and la[w]yers he is now resolved to sell his estate and offers one of them the preferances. The other is to a la[w]yer to take out or put fines and recoverys in his name to innabell⁴⁵² him to get an act of parl[ia]ment, which is such a madness as non[e] but he co[ul]d think off this. This is all that I know of him and if wan of the parsons⁴⁵³ that had the letter had not

⁴³⁹ *Lege* week.

⁴⁴⁰ Anne (Nancy) (1712–36), daughter of Anne (Jane) (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749) and Thomas Pearson (1678–1736), who was living with Katherine.

⁴⁴¹ *Lege* swollen.

⁴⁴² *Lege* forced.

⁴⁴³ Rhubarb (*Rheum rhabarbarum*) when taken internally in small doses, acts as an astringent tonic to the digestive system; when taken in larger doses rhubarb acts as a very mild laxative.

⁴⁴⁴ Potassium carbonate.

⁴⁴⁵ *Lege* twice.

⁴⁴⁶ Powdered crabs claws (*cheale cancrorum*) forms the basis of Gascoign Powders.

⁴⁴⁷ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁴⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737): see letter no. 39.

⁴⁴⁹ Mary (Missy) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) were taking the waters in Bath.

⁴⁵⁰ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) had issued a request for the payment of money from the bank account of William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁵¹ *Lege* value.

⁴⁵² *Lege* enable.

⁴⁵³ *Lege* persons.

showed it to Col[one]l Dallaway⁴⁵⁴ we sho[ul]d not have h[e]ard [of] it, but now your brother will send for the la[w]yer about it. But its hap[p]y he cannot sell or non[e] had bine left long ear this. Whear is the poor unhap[p]y wife?⁴⁵⁵ We hear that she intends to show⁴⁵⁶ for a mentances.⁴⁵⁷ I am sure its more re[a]sonable she sho[ul]d have it then in the hands of such vill[e] p[e]opell as has it.

I beli[e]ve I have tyerd you and my self and am my dear sisters most affectionate,
Ka: Conolly.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

40. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 AUGUST 1727

Yesterday and this day I had letters from dear sister with inclosed in both to Mr Clark⁴⁵⁸ and wan to Mrs Buck[e]ll[e]y⁴⁵⁹ which ear all deliv[e]red. I wo[ul]d not writ[e] this post but to let you know I deliv[e]red Mr Clark his letters. He was with me this day when your last letter came.

We have nothing in this co[u]ntery but hurry and confussion about elections. I have wrot[e] 40 letters about Frank Burtons.⁴⁶⁰ How it will goe I cannot tell but most p[e]opell think well. His good mother⁴⁶¹ is carrying on an int[e]rist as she says for [her] son, contrary to his desire and that of all his fri[e]nds in that co[u]ntrey, or at least those that calls themselves soe, and if anything hurt him it must be his fri[e]nds all not goeing wan way. I have wrote tow⁴⁶² or 3 to her but she does not answer any of my letters, but writ[e]s to Mr Conolly⁴⁶³ then he gives them to me to answer. I have wrot[e] to Frank, I have not h[e]ard from him this month.

I shall so[o]ne bring my baby⁴⁶⁴ to town. Now the we[a]ther is colder she is very well, I hear from her every day. Hary⁴⁶⁵ stil[l] in town, his brother at Killibegs.⁴⁶⁶ I find they 2 ear out. I have spoke[n] to Hary but he will never yeald⁴⁶⁷ to any mortell, for he never thinks himself in the wrong as I have h[e]ard from others he is, but I know little of it.

⁴⁵⁴ Col Robert Dalaway (1669–1740) of Ballahill, Kilroot, Co Antrim, married as her third husband Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710), widow of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) after 1707: *HIP*.

⁴⁵⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁵⁶ *Lege* sue.

⁴⁵⁷ *Lege* maintenance.

⁴⁵⁸ Darby Clarke, examiner of the Excise in the Custom House. Later letters suggest he was a relative of Mr Smith, Jane Bonnell's friend in London: see letters nos 120 and 202; Hughes, *Patentee officers*.

⁴⁵⁹ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

⁴⁶⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴⁶¹ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁴⁶² *Lege* two.

⁴⁶³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁶⁴ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁴⁶⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴⁶⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) was elected MP for Killibegs in 1727, retaining the constituency until his death in 1738: *HIP*.

⁴⁶⁷ *Lege* yield.

The death of poor Lord Chife Justis⁴⁶⁸ which it is to be burryed this night gives all his fri[e]nds tr[o]uble. Your brother is much consarned for him and has not bine well senas he h[e]ard it. He dyed of a raging favor.⁴⁶⁹ He is a great loss to his co[un]tery as well as to his one⁴⁷⁰ famally. Poor Mrs Barnwell⁴⁷¹ is much to be pityed to lose the best of husbands and such a brother in 2 months' time. His estate goes by settelment to his brother Dick⁴⁷² that lives in England, about 7000 po[u]nd in legesys; the rest to his brother James that was mar[r]yed to Lady Dillon, Frank Burtons aunt.⁴⁷³ His will was made in 1724.⁴⁷⁴ Then poor Mrs Barnwell had a husband [but he] has only left her a 100 pound to buy mo[un]ring. Judy Barnwell⁴⁷⁵ dyed in but indiff[er]ent circumstances. But [Lord Chief Justice] told me he wo[ul]d in some degree make [good] his sisters⁴⁷⁶ and her childrins loss of a good husband and a good father, but called for his will but co[ul]d not doe anything in it. Your brothers sarvis and mine attend you. I am my dear sisters most affectionate,
K: C:

[PS] Poor Peg[g]y Jon[e]s⁴⁷⁷ continues very wack,⁴⁷⁸ no return of her vomiting blood. I hear my sister is not well, brother Jones⁴⁷⁹ mighty well recov[e]red. I have not h[e]ard what is the matter with her.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

⁴⁶⁸ William Whitshed (1679–1727), MP for Co. Wicklow, chief justice of Common Pleas, 1727. In 1720 he denounced a tract published by Jonathan Swift which called for the use of goods manufactured in Ireland. He was lampooned mercilessly by Swift because of this. He was buried in St Michael's church, Dublin: Ball, *Judges; Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland* (1907), pp 321–2.

⁴⁶⁹ *Lege* fever.

⁴⁷⁰ *Lege* own.

⁴⁷¹ Sister of William Whitshed (1679–1727): see note 468 above.

⁴⁷² Richard Whitshed, son of Thomas Whitshed (d. 1697), MP for Carysfort, and Mary Quinn. He married Jane Knatchbull (b. 1669) widow of Sir George Herbert, Durrow, Laois in 1697.

⁴⁷³ Grace Tilson, sister of Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765), married as his second wife Sir John Dillon (d. 1708) in February 1702. After his death she married James Whitshed, brother of William Whitshed (1679–1727).

⁴⁷⁴ On the death of William Whitshed (1679–1727) his property was vested in Admiral Sir James Hawkins, second son of the bishop of Raphoe, who had received it as a bequest from James Whitshed, the last male of the family. In 1791, Hawkins obtained a private act from the Irish parliament authorising him to assume the name Whitshed and quarter the arms with his own: *Journal of Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead* (1907), pp 321–2.

⁴⁷⁵ Unidentified, but probably a niece of William Whitshed (1679–1727): see letter no. 40.

⁴⁷⁶ Sister of William Whitshed (1679–1727): see note 468 above.

⁴⁷⁷ Unidentified daughter of Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Richard Jones (1662–1729) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath, who died young.

⁴⁷⁸ *Lege* weak.

⁴⁷⁹ Mary (1675–1765) and Richard Jones (1662–1729).

41. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO ALEXANDER MURRAY OF BROUGHTON,⁴⁸⁰
CALLEY, SCOTLAND, 17 JANUARY 1727[/28]

Sir,

Its soe long senas I had the ple[a]sure of hearing how you and your lady⁴⁸¹ has your healths that I have bine une[a]sey about it and has made all the inquirys for you I can, and offten desinged⁴⁸² of giveing you the tr[o]uble of a letter but was unwilling to doe it lest it should be tr[o]ubblesome. But at the desire of my nephew Hary Conyngham⁴⁸³ this comes to you on his account. Had he the honnor of being knowen to you he wo[ul]d have wrot[e] himself to have let you know how unfortunate[e] his brother⁴⁸⁴ is in the mismanigment of all his affears. He has morgiged⁴⁸⁵ the le[a]sses he holds under you and they are to be sold to rease⁴⁸⁶ the money they ear morgiged for. He wo[ul]d purchase them for himself and pay the deet⁴⁸⁷ if you wo[ul]d be so good [as] to let him have a le[a]sse of them renewable forever in his one⁴⁸⁸ name. The tearm his brother has is I believe a long leass[e]. The names of the lands is Ballyduffe⁴⁸⁹ and Carrigeross. If he thought you would not be soe good to him as to make it renewable to him he wo[ul]d not med[d]ell with it.

He is a sober maniging young man and will I dou[b]t not please you well when you meet him. And I hope his fri[e]nds will have comfort of him which allas I fear they

⁴⁸⁰ Alexander Murray of Broughton (c. 1680–1750), was a ‘cousin’ of Katherine Conolly through her mother Marian Murray, daughter of John Murray of Broughton, Wigtownshire, Scotland. Alexander Murray married Lady Euphemia Stewart, daughter of James, 5th earl of Galloway. The Murray family had obtained a plantation grant of lands in south-west Donegal and by 1620 had engrossed most of the baronies of Boylagh and Banagh (minus churchlands) and secured their erection into the two manors of Castlemurray and Ballyweel by royal patent. By the eighteenth century their lands consisted of more than 40,000 statute acres, with a further 25,000 let to Lord Conyngham. The principal places of note on the estate were the town and parliamentary borough of Killybegs and the village of Mountcharles, where the Conynghams had a seat and from which they took one of their titles: PRONI, *Introduction to Murray of Broughton Papers* (2007). See IAA, C/47–50 (1678–1729) for letters and papers relating to the inheritance of the Boylough and Banagh estates following the death of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham in 1707. See also Graeme Kirkham, ‘“No more to be got off the cat but the skin”: management, landholding and economic change on the Murray of Broughton estate, 1670–1755’ in William Nolan, Liam Ronayne, Mairead Dunlevy (eds), *Donegal history and society* (Dublin, 1995), pp 357–380.

⁴⁸¹ Lady Euphemia Stewart (1706–60).

⁴⁸² *Lege* designed.

⁴⁸³ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴⁸⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738). Indicative of the intermediary type of relationship Jane Bonnell (*née* Conyngham) (c. 1670–1745) had with her nephews and the import of inheritances, Williams Conyngham proposed that Jane write to Alexander Murray of Broughton (c. 1680–1750) to persuade him to leave his lands in Co. Donegal to him: ‘as I am the elder brother and consequently the head of the family ... he should leave what he intends for to leave our family to me; for my brother is already in better circumstances for a younger brother than I am for an elder brother; he has above £400 a year estate [and] a cornet’s commission besides ready money’: Williams Conyngham, Slane, to Jane Bonnell, 26 Sept. 1728 (NLI, MS 41,579/2).

⁴⁸⁵ *Lege* mortgaged.

⁴⁸⁶ *Lege* raise.

⁴⁸⁷ *Lege* debt.

⁴⁸⁸ *Lege* own.

⁴⁸⁹ Ballyduffe, Lifford, Co. Donegal and an associated but unidentified townland.

cannot hope any from his eldest brothers manigement of himself and his affairs. I shall add no more on this affear but your complyanas⁴⁹⁰ in this will oblige my nephew and me, he having disired me to make this request for him which I very heartily doe.

I most beg the favear⁴⁹¹ of you to make Mr Conollys⁴⁹² and my sarvices acceptable to you and your lady. I was in hopes by the account I heard of your comeing over to have had the ple[a]sure of seeing you both hear before this, and by word of mouth a[s]suring you what I now doe in this letter, that I am to you and your lady a most affectionate kinswoman⁴⁹³ and most humble servant.

NAS, Murray of Broughton papers, MS GO10/1421/463

**42. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO ALEXANDER MURRAY OF BROUGHTON,
CALLEY, SCOTLAND, 7 FEBRUARY 1727[1/28]**

Sir, I had the feaver⁴⁹⁴ of yours of the 12[th] of January yesterday. Where it has lain so long by the way I cannot tell, but had it come sooner to me I should have as I do now wished you and your lady all the joy your hearts can wish of your son.⁴⁹⁵ And had I heard of it by any other way should with ple[a]sure have wished you joy, and hopes the young gentleman will live to be a comfort to you and a pleasure to all his relations. I hope before this your lady is perfectly recovered which I heartily wish she may.

About ten days ago I did myself the ple[a]sure of writing to you on my nephew Harry Conynghams⁴⁹⁶ desire. If you have received it you are the best judge what to do. If so I shall add no more on that affair, only I hope his friends may have comfort in him. For all hopes is over as to his brother⁴⁹⁷ ever doing anything thats right, either to himself, family or fri[e]nds, but I hope with reason otherwise of this young man. So in what is reasonable I hope his fri[e]nds will contribute towards his well being. I shall add no more but the tender of my humble services to your lady and good wishes for your son, and to assure you I am with great truth your humble sarvant,

Ka: Conolly

NAS, Murray of Broughton papers, MS GO10/1421/463

⁴⁹⁰ *Lege* compliance.

⁴⁹¹ *Lege* favour.

⁴⁹² William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁹³ Katherine Conolly's use of the word 'kinswoman' is significant in that it reinforces the familial connection.

⁴⁹⁴ *Lege* favour.

⁴⁹⁵ James Murray (1727–99), eldest son of Alexander Murray, MP, of Broughton and Cally, and Lady Euphemia Stewart (1706–60). He inherited estates in Wigtownshire, Kirkcudbright and Ireland when he succeeded his father in 1750: *HoP*: 1715–54.

⁴⁹⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴⁹⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

43. KATHERINE CONOLLY TO JANE BONNELL, 5 MARCH [1727/28]

Dear sister,

Your brother Conolly⁴⁹⁸ returns you hearty thanks for an affair he knew nothing of – your giving yourself the tr[o]uble about – till this day that 6 packets came in and he received⁴⁹⁹ letters from a fri[e]nd of his, wan Mr Richison.⁵⁰⁰ In the forst he writes to him in the words following: ‘there is wan Robert Whitham Esqr.⁵⁰¹ of St Bart[holo]mas Hospital who is an active and leading man and has a great respect for Mrs Bonnell. When I was with him he mentioned her to me as a lady for Ierland [that] he has a great esteem for and that she spent some time at his contery house. I told him her relevation[ship] to Mrs Conolly.⁵⁰² I know she can make him zeallos⁵⁰³ for you and as he is a considerable and notable man it may be of great sarviss to you’. This letter was deated the 22[nd] Febr[uar]y and in a letter of the 29[th] he writ[e]s to your brother. He writ[e]s he had got a letter from Mrs Bon[n]ell to Mr Whitham and this is all is sayd on that subjict. Mr Conolly bids me tell you that this affair is about a lease he holds in the county of Der[r]y from the Compiny of Vinters⁵⁰⁴ that he is now treating about and that Mr Whitham is wan of them and a l[e]ading man among them. Mr Conolly diser[e]s you wo[ul]d use your int[e]rest with Mr Whitham to sarve him as much as he can in this affair.

I did not tell you the mallanc[h]olly condition of that co[un]trey⁵⁰⁵ and of all the tennints [that] goe in great numbers to Ammerica, and that they ear all in a miserable condition for want of br[e]ad.⁵⁰⁶ Your brother will be much obliged to you if you can doe him any sarvices with Mr Whitham.

I had yours of the 22[nd] last night; that is 3 from you by the 6 packets. Mrs Buckley⁵⁰⁷ sent to me about some letter of the 15[th] that had a letter inclosed to her for Mr Worth.⁵⁰⁸ I had non[e] such in your forst wan to Mr Clark;⁵⁰⁹ in your 2[nd],

⁴⁹⁸ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁹⁹ *Lege* received.

⁵⁰⁰ John Richardson (1663–1744), a lawyer of Rich Hill, Co. Antrim who advised and acted on behalf of Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) in his dispute with his aunt Jane Bonnell concerning a mortgage she held on the Conyngham Donegal estate.

⁵⁰¹ Robert Whitham (c. 1675–c. 1730) of Springfield, near Chelmsford, Essex, England. Jane Bonnell sold some old coins to him in February 1728: information from Vintners’ Company archives, London; receipt, 14 Feb. 1728 (NLI, MS 41,580/41).

⁵⁰² Katherine Conolly (*née* Conyngham) (1662–1752).

⁵⁰³ *Lege* zealous.

⁵⁰⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729) held long-term leases of the Grocers’ and Vintner’s Proportions in Co. Londonderry from the Irish Society: see Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy; Conolly archive*; IAA, Castletown papers, C/4–19.

⁵⁰⁵ Co. Donegal.

⁵⁰⁶ James Hamilton reported in 1728 that ‘Capt. Henry Conyngham’s tenants, though bound in firm leases for four years ending next May, are throwing them up daily ... there’s a ship lying now at Killybegs belonging to New England that has indented with as many passengers as she can carry’: PRONI, *Introduction to Murray of Broughton Papers* (2007).

⁵⁰⁷ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

⁵⁰⁸ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733) was related to the Worth family through the marriage in 1702 of her daughter Hester Whitfield to James Worth Tynte: see James Kelly, *Sir Edward Newenham MP 1734–1814: defender of the Protestant constitution* (Dublin, 2004), p. 299.

⁵⁰⁹ Darby Clarke, examiner of the Excise, see letters nos 40, 120 and 202.

wan for Mrs Buckley; in your 3[r]d, wan for Mr Clark. I am in heast, my dear sister's one⁵¹⁰ affectionate, Ka: Conolly
 March 5th: my cold is better, I got some rest last night.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

44. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 23 MAY 1728

I had my dear sisters of the 14[th] and am glad you think yourself better which I heart[i]ly wish the continuance of. I gave yours to Mr Clark⁵¹¹ and he went im[m]ed[i]etly to Mr French⁵¹² how⁵¹³ as[s]ured him he only weated⁵¹⁴ till privydlige⁵¹⁵ was out to proseed, which will be in June so that W[h]itson team⁵¹⁶ will be free to proseed in.

I never saw that unhap[p]y boy⁵¹⁷ senas I wrot[e] to you that about a month agoe. He came in to dinner and went a way as so[o]ne as done. He is still in town but as I l[e]arn that woman⁵¹⁸ is not with him, but I dou[b]t not others as bad is. I h[e]ard 3 times from Har[r]y⁵¹⁹ senas he went to London, with out deat⁵²⁰ or how to derect⁵²¹ so I co[ul]d not answer it. Nather doe I know wither he is gone or not.

Yesterday Cleman[t]s, his wife, mother, and his brother⁵²² left this for London to go to doctor Brohave⁵²³ to Laydon and then follow what derections he shall give him. I love him very much and wishes he may come back, he is very thin but hearty. The day they left this they dined hear and the old woman to[o]ke an opertuneth⁵²⁴ of sp[e]aking to me of that unfortunate affair.⁵²⁵ She lays much blame on Molly for opening her letter when she gave it, telling her she had not reed⁵²⁶ it, and 3 wicks⁵²⁷ after telling her

⁵¹⁰ *Lege* own.

⁵¹¹ Darby Clarke, examiner of the Excise, see letters nos 40, 120 and 202.

⁵¹² Robert French, Jane Bonnell's legal counsel, particularly in her long running dispute with Williams (1698–1705) and Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81): NLI, MS 41,579/7 and MS 41,580/5.

⁵¹³ *Recte* who.

⁵¹⁴ *Lege* waited.

⁵¹⁵ *Lege* privilege.

⁵¹⁶ Legal Term.

⁵¹⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵¹⁸ Probably a woman of disrepute with whom Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) was involved.

⁵¹⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵²⁰ *Lege* debt.

⁵²¹ *Lege* direct, address to.

⁵²² Theophilus (c. 1687–1728) and Elizabeth Clements (*née* Burton) (d. 1748) of Rathkenny, Co. Cavan; Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765); and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵²³ Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738) of Leiden, Netherlands, an eminent doctor and the first to practise clinical medicine.

⁵²⁴ *Lege* opportunity.

⁵²⁵ Referring to bad feeling between Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and her mother-in-law Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765). The family was troubled by Alice's conduct towards Missy. This was not without cause as Missy's behaviour became so difficult that at times her husband Frank Burton had to leave home: see letter no. 36.

⁵²⁶ *Lege* read.

⁵²⁷ *Lege* weeks.

husband of it when she was in a pation.⁵²⁸ And that the occasion of her writing that letter was that Molly was soe une[a]sey to her husband that he was forced to l[e]ave London [at] wanst⁵²⁹ and goe and stay some time at Hamtion Court,⁵³⁰ and from that wrot[e] a very cooll letter to his wife telling her if she wo[ul]d not let him have more quiet he wo[ul]d not be he[a]sty in coming back. The mother knowing this was the occasion of her writing as she did to her daughter Clemon[t]s to which that was an answer. But as to the child,⁵³¹ she sayd nothing of it but that she was in hopes a child boorn⁵³² wo[ul]d have swe[e]tened her temper. She sayd M[r]s Bonall⁵³³ was very angrey and she h[e]ard I was so too. I told her she co[ul]d not wonder if we both resented it as we did. She told me it was I made her quit her sons house. I said I believed it was and that I wo[ul]d no[t] deny⁵³⁴ [it]. But after they went forst home, I hearing in what a manner she carryed to the girill, I thought according to Franks⁵³⁵ promise to me it was fit she sho[ul]d l[e]ave them to live and mannige by them selves. And that beca[u]se I [k]new she allways got their letters before they did, I did writ[e] in those terms which I sho[ul]d not have done if I had not beli[e]ved she wo[ul]d see the letters forst. She sayd it had bine well [page missing]

NLI, MS 41,578/4

45. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CLOTILDA TICKELL,⁵³⁶ BATH, 28 SEPTEMBER
1728

Dear Madam,

Last Wedensday I had the favour of yours from Bath and with 2 packets came in. A Tu[e]sday we came from Castelltown that day. I shall return there again nixt Tu[e]sday or Wedensday for a wick. I doe not find Mr Conolly⁵³⁷ soe well hear as in the co[u]ntery but the we[a]ther grows cold and damp so we shall make no stay there but [to] bring the child⁵³⁸ and settell some affears there. Dublin is very dull and empety as I ever saw it and it is much more soe to me beca[u]se my dear Mrs Tickell is not in it.

Your account of Princess Emillia⁵³⁹ is what all the world gives her. I sent to Lady Eustiss⁵⁴⁰ to let her know I had a letter from you. She had just then resived wan from

⁵²⁸ *Lege* passion.

⁵²⁹ *Lege* once.

⁵³⁰ The Tilson family purchased a residence at Hampton Poyle, Oxfordshire, England in 1723.

⁵³¹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵³² *Lege* born.

⁵³³ Jane Bonnell.

⁵³⁴ *Lege* deny.

⁵³⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵³⁶ In 1726 Clotilda Eustace married Thomas Tickell (1685–1740), secretary to the lords justices of Ireland (under secretary to the chief secretary), 1724–40. Tickell inherited his Irish estate and the attached title at Carnolway/Carnalway through his marriage to Clotilda. Their Irish home was at Glasnevin, Co. Dublin: see letter 30, note 312.

⁵³⁷ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁵³⁸ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵³⁹ Princess Amelia (1711–86), daughter of George II and Caroline of Brandenburg-Anspach: *ODNB*.

⁵⁴⁰ Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752), Clotilda Tickell's mother.

you. You may be sure dear madam I shall never miss any op[p]ertunity of answering any of yours [that] you do me the favour of writing, for I set soe a just vallaw⁵⁴¹ on your [friendship] that it shall not fail in my side, for time most⁵⁴² be very scarce with me when I neglect it.

I gri[e]ve for your heed close⁵⁴³ but if that we hear to be true – that the Queen⁵⁴⁴ says she will not wear brood loss⁵⁴⁵ her sett,⁵⁴⁶ nor [will her] famallys – your loss is the less, for I know you wo[ul]d like that fash[i]on much as well as I doe. Let me know when you get to London if there be anything in it.

Mr Wessleys sudden death and the great fortune [he] has left Mr Colley is the chat of town and Mr Harmen is quit[e] undon[e], for he lived much on the hopes of it.⁵⁴⁷ There was enough to have made them both and a dusen⁵⁴⁸ more famally e[a]sey. His widow has put in a cavait⁵⁴⁹ against the will, for she will not take her [£]300 a year he left her, and they say she will have above [£]2000 a year besid[e]s ten thousand pin mon[e]y. Mr Tate⁵⁵⁰ is allsoe deed.⁵⁵¹ No tow⁵⁵² men co[ul]d have dyed less lemented than those tow is.

Mr Conolly⁵⁵³ giv[e]s you and Mr Tickell his sarvis and says he will be allways glad to hear from him. By this days packets I hear Nat[hania]l Clemon[t]s has succeeded his brother in the Tre[a]sery and meny of the positions.⁵⁵⁴ The widow Clemen[t]s and her mother Burton is in London.⁵⁵⁵ Senas poor Thoe[philus] is gone my consarn is much less for them for I loved him much, both as a fri[e]nd and a relation.

My sarvics attends Mr Tickell and dear Mrs Tickell in a very sencear manner, for I am with great truth his and dear madam your most feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

Tickell papers

⁵⁴¹ *Lege* value.

⁵⁴² *Lege* must.

⁵⁴³ *Lege* head cloths, pieces which made up a head-dress.

⁵⁴⁴ Caroline of Brandenburg-Anspach.

⁵⁴⁵ *Lege* braid lace.

⁵⁴⁶ *Recte* self.

⁵⁴⁷ Richard Garret Wesley (c. 1665–1728), was MP for Trim and for Athboy. His parents were Gerald Garret Wesley of Dangan, Co. Meath and Elizabeth Colley. He married Catherine Keating in 1685. They had no children. He left his estate to Richard Colley (c. 1680–1758) on condition he changed his name to Wesley. Wentworth Harman (c. 1676–1757) hoped to inherit because his mother Margaret, first wife of Wentworth Harman (c. 1655–1714), was a Miss Wesley of Dangan, Co. Meath: *HIP*.

⁵⁴⁸ *Lege* dozen.

⁵⁴⁹ *Lege* caveat.

⁵⁵⁰ Unidentified.

⁵⁵¹ *Lege* dead.

⁵⁵² *Lege* two.

⁵⁵³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁵⁵⁴ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) succeeded his brother Theophilus Clements (c. 1687–1728) as teller of the Exchequer: see A. P. W. Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements: government and the governing elite in Ireland, 1725–75*.

⁵⁵⁵ Elizabeth Clements (*née* Burton) (d. 1748), widow of Theophilus Clements (c. 1687–1728), and Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

46. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE,⁵⁵⁶ 3 DECEMBER 1728

S[i]r,

I am sor[r]y my forst letter most be to give you the tr[o]uble of the inclosed, but all my letters to my nephew Burton⁵⁵⁷ and my nephew Conolly⁵⁵⁸ that is at Dijon,⁵⁵⁹ they doe not get wan in ten of them. I incloss them e[i]ther to wan Mr Burton a marchant⁵⁶⁰ in London or to Mr Goerg Tillson⁵⁶¹ (a near reletion of my nephew Burtons), but he silldome gets any letters from me which gives him and his wife⁵⁶² much une[a]seyneess, which makes me beg the faveur of your sending this letter under your conveyance. Mr Conolly⁵⁶³ is very well recovered his leat⁵⁶⁴ disorders and I take this opertunaty to as[s]ure you and your lady that no body is more your humble sarvant then Mr Conolly and I ear.

If in any pertickler I co[ul]d sarve you or good Mrs Delafay hear, no body wo[ul]d doe it with more ple[a]suer then sir, your most humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I beli[e]ve your best way of sending the inclosed wo[ul]d be in our ambas[s]ador Mr Wallpolls⁵⁶⁵ bag to Pariss, but you know best how to send it.

TNA, SP 63/390/179

47. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 6 DECEMBER 1728

Sir,

I am not only ashamed but vexed at my giving you this second tr[o]uble soe so[o]ne, but this I doe at Mr Conollys desire who is affread⁵⁶⁶ his nephew Conolly may by this time think of goeing to the Court of Hanavear whear he had bine [expected] befor[e] this time but for an indisposition that attacked him at Dijon. And finding that Princes Fridrick⁵⁶⁷ is on his j[o]urney to England he wo[ul]d not have his nephew goe soe long a j[o]urney. Soe I must intreat your sending the inclosed as so[o]ne as you can.

⁵⁵⁶ Charles Delafaye (1677–1762), under-secretary to Lord Sunderland, secretary of state. His wife Elizabeth, and subsequently their daughter Anne, became housekeepers at Dublin Castle and the vice-regal residence at Chapelizod from 1715: see letter no. 11 and note 86.

⁵⁵⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁵⁸ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁵⁹ Charles Delafaye's family originally came from Dijon, so he may have had connections there to assist with any enquiries about Frank Burton (1696–1737).

⁵⁶⁰ Unidentified.

⁵⁶¹ George Tilson (c. 1672–1739), under-secretary of the Northern Department, may have been related to Frank Burton (1696–1737) through his mother Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁵⁶² Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵⁶³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁵⁶⁴ *Lege* late.

⁵⁶⁵ Horace Walpole (1678–1757) was envoy and later ambassador to France between 1723 and 1730: *ODNB*.

⁵⁶⁶ *Lege* afraid.

⁵⁶⁷ Prince Frederick (1707–51), eldest son of George II and Queen Caroline. From the age of nine he was titular head of the court in Hanover. In 1728, when this letter was written, he had left Hanover for the court in London to be created prince of Wales.

I shall not give you many more of these tr[o]ubles with out l[e]ave for I am parhaps doing a very impartnat⁵⁶⁸ thing. So [I] shall only beg pardon and as[s]ure you and Mrs Dallafay that Mr Conolly and I ear much your humble sarvants. And that I am sir with great truth, your most humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 63/390/183

48. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 23 DECEMBER 1728

Your obliging kind letter of the 12[th] inst I had last packet and nather⁵⁶⁹ Mr Conolly nor I had ever any re[a]son to doubt your fri[e]ndship to us. But as you ear soe good as to tell me its noe tr[o]uble to you to send the inclosed to my nephew Burton, its doeing him and me a pertickler favar, for meny of our letters has miscar[r]yed.

I heart[i]ly rejoise at Mrs Dellafays recovery and doe not doubt but she may have better health after such an illness, for I have found it soe after a sevear fevear I had meny years ago. I heart[i]ly wish you and her meny hap[p]y years together.

We have the greatest snow and hardest frost I ever remember which has given every mortall colds. Mr Conolly has had a very bad wan which he has not got reed⁵⁷⁰ of yet, nor will, not till the we[a]ther change[s]. I am Mrs Dellafays humble sarvant. Mr Conolly bids me as[s]ure her of his sarvics and give me l[e]ave to as[s]ure you sir that I am with great truth, your most obliged, humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 6/390/193

49. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 2 JANUARY 1728[29]

Sir,

I had the favour of yours yesterday with 3 packets that arrived and am extr[e]amly obliged to you for your care of my letters and dou[b]ts not but I and my fri[e]nds will have the effect of it, for hither too our letters has gone, I know not how.

Mr Conolly joynes with me in our humble sarvicas and good wishes for meny hap[p]y years to you and Mrs Dallaffey. I sho[ul]d be glad of any op[p]ertunety of sarveing e[i]ther of you hear for [manuscript damaged]. [I am] s[i]r with great truth and esteem, your obliged, humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

I return you Mr Poynts⁵⁷¹ letter for which I thank you.

TNA, SP 63/391/1

⁵⁶⁸ *Lege* impertinent.

⁵⁶⁹ *Lege* neither.

⁵⁷⁰ *Lege* rid.

⁵⁷¹ Stephen Poyntz (c. 1685–1750), diplomat and courtier; at the date of this letter he was in France as a delegate to the congress of Soissons.

50. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 10 JANUARY 1728[/29]

Sir,

I still am tr[o]ubellsom[e] and still asks pardon, but I find no other letters goes safe but by your conveneyas.⁵⁷² I am with great respect Mrs Dallafays and your most humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 63/391/5

51. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 16 FEBRUARY 1728[/29]

Sir,

Your care of my letters to my tew nephews⁵⁷³ abroad puts them and me under great obligations to you, for nothing is more une[a]sey to me now then my not hearing frequently from them at this time, expecting [in] every packet an account that my ness Burton⁵⁷⁴ is brought to bed, being very wack⁵⁷⁵ and haveing had a most miserable time ever senas she was with child. I aske pardon for this account, but I know you will pardon me for I know you ear very indulgent to your fri[e]nds, in which number I hope you will beli[e]ve me to be with great truth, for I am sir, your obliged humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

Mr Conolly is prity well and much yours and Mrs Dellafays humble sarvant, as I as[s]ure you I am.

TNA, SP 63/391/13

52. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 4 MARCH 1728[/29]

Sir,

Your goodness in takeing care of my letters is very obliging and now that I hear my ness⁵⁷⁶ is deliv[e]red at Dijon⁵⁷⁷ will oblige me to be very tr[o]ublesome in sending letters there prity frequently, she being a very wack⁵⁷⁸ body and long ill.

I shall add no more but Mr Conollys and my sarvices attends you and Mrs Dellafay in the sencerast manner, for I am sir with great truth, your obliged humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 63/391/19

⁵⁷² *Lege* conveyance.

⁵⁷³ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁷⁴ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737)

⁵⁷⁵ *Lege* weak.

⁵⁷⁶ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵⁷⁷ Referring to the birth of Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵⁷⁸ *Lege* weak.

53. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN TO JANE BONNELL, 5 MARCH 1728[1/29]

My dear sister,

The packits ear⁵⁷⁹ just come in and just be gone out to [the] other boot.⁵⁸⁰ Being hear I writ[e] in a hurry beca[u]se I wo[ul]d not miss this packet. I have yours of the 3[rd] and 11th. All the answers to the first is when the hussives⁵⁸¹ come with Mr Bety⁵⁸² I shall say whats proper. As to thread, I told you before, she is deed⁵⁸³ that made the best and those that sells that thread has got a way of mixing it with very bad, but I hope by May to get some of the best thats to be had for you. I allsoe by the first I can get to carry it, [propose] to send you a strong quilt for your bed of my own work and invention, for it may be in London but I never saw nor h[e]ard of them till 2 or 3 I have done and now I am sure there is 40 [people] a doing in Dublin, for I have set all the idell ladys at work and truely it was that which set me forst at work about them.

Your brother bids me again to thank you for what you did about his affears.⁵⁸⁴ He not hearing this post from Mr Richison⁵⁸⁵ makes him beli[e]ve the affear is over. I beli[e]ve Mr Richison off[e]red the first vallaw⁵⁸⁶ and much more than the vallaw is now, considering the miserable condition the co[u]ntrey is redused to.

In your 2 last you sayd nothing of poor niss Conyngham and her husband⁵⁸⁷ never answered mine abo[u]t her, but I wrot[e] upon other matters he was unwilling to answer.

Batty⁵⁸⁸ says, ‘will a[u]nt Bonny⁵⁸⁹ lave⁵⁹⁰ [t]he littell french man⁵⁹¹ [damaged ms] better than me. I am sure she will not beca[u]se she will send me a hussive for my working.’ Indeed she is a great worker, has got 2 or 3 bealled⁵⁹² all ready with work. She sends you a [damaged ms] and mine all sends you. I am my dear sister[s] one,⁵⁹³ K. C.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

54. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 16 MARCH 1728[1/29]

Sir,

Mr Conolly and I heartly gri[e]ves you had had soe sevear a fit of the gout, for no fri[e]nds you have wishes you more health then we doe. You need make no

⁵⁷⁹ *Lege* are.

⁵⁸⁰ *Lege* boat.

⁵⁸¹ A small cloth packet containing sewing needles and thread.

⁵⁸² Unidentified.

⁵⁸³ *Lege* dead.

⁵⁸⁴ See letter no. 43.

⁵⁸⁵ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁵⁸⁶ *Lege* value.

⁵⁸⁷ Constance (1698–1767) and Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵⁸⁸ Unidentified. Katherine does not include ‘Batty’s’ salutations in ‘her’ children’s greetings to Jane Bonnell.

⁵⁸⁹ Jane Bonnell (*née* Conyngham) (c. 1670–1745).

⁵⁹⁰ *Lege* love.

⁵⁹¹ Unidentified.

⁵⁹² *Lege* balled.

⁵⁹³ *Lege* own.

opollogey⁵⁹⁴ for the letter for it was no fa[u]lt of yours. I shall allways rejoyts to hear of yours and Mrs Dellafays health, being with great truth to you both, a most affectionate, humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 63/391/37

55. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 22 APRIL 1729

Sir,

I had your obliging letter of the 10th which was as kind and fri[e]ndly as I co[ul]d expect from wan soe good as Mr Dellafay has allway[s] bine to me. Mr Conolly had the letter you mention from Sir Robert Wallpoll.⁵⁹⁵ It was like him self, kind and obliging, and has eased Mr Conolly of a great deall of une[a]siness, for it has allways bine the h[e]ight of his imbition⁵⁹⁶ to stand well in his good opponnons.⁵⁹⁷ For I am sure no man liveing has a greater regard for Sir Robert then he has and allways had, and this you may as[s]ure him off. Tho[ugh] those lyes and callemneys⁵⁹⁸ never r[e]ached his ears they wear artfully spread, for all I wrot[e] is truth, [f]or we can depend on nothing we hear, for it was sent hither in meny letters and gentellmen now of no consequence. Senas his best fri[e]nds doth not beli[e]ve it (I am e[a]sey).

Mr Manly⁵⁹⁹ wrot[e] you last packet of a simpell project carryed on hear for a few days, but as the gentellman is much ashamed of himself, that is over. I am sure Mr Conolly never had any thought of declining the chere.⁶⁰⁰ And his chi[e]fe indusment⁶⁰¹ at his forst takeing it was that he and his fri[e]nds thought no man more capable of sarveing the Kings int[er]est then he was, which I think in meny instenessis⁶⁰² has been demenstrated, and will ever be his indever⁶⁰³ while he lives. And I thank God he is in a better steat⁶⁰⁴ of health now then he was when he to[o]ke it last.

I aske pardon for tr[o]ubling you soe often, and if you make Mr Conolly and my complim[en]ts to Sir Robert Wallpoll you will oblige us. I am sir with great truth, your obliged fri[e]nd and humble sarvant. I am sor[r]y your lameniss⁶⁰⁵ continiues. I am Mrs Dellafays humble sarvant. Mr Conolly is to you both in a very sencear manner.

TNA, SP 63/391/46

⁵⁹⁴ *Lege* apology.

⁵⁹⁵ Sir Robert Walpole (1676–1745), British statesman, who is generally regarded as the first prime minister of Great Britain, although the position of ‘prime minister’ had no recognition in law or official use at the time.

⁵⁹⁶ *Lege* ambition.

⁵⁹⁷ *Lege* opinions.

⁵⁹⁸ *Lege* calumnies.

⁵⁹⁹ Isaac Manley (c. 1687–1735), postmaster general and commissioner of revenue: see letter no. 11, note 84.

⁶⁰⁰ *Lege* chair; meaning here the office of speaker of the House of Commons.

⁶⁰¹ *Lege* inducement.

⁶⁰² *Lege* instances.

⁶⁰³ *Lege* endeavour.

⁶⁰⁴ *Lege* state.

⁶⁰⁵ *Lege* lameness.

56. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CLOTILDA TICKELL,⁶⁰⁶ 23 APRIL 1729

Last night I had my dear Mrs Tickells of the 17[th] inst and am sor[r]y you had such bad luck in we[a]ther while you were in the co[u]ntrey. I had just the same feat⁶⁰⁷ tho[ugh] my stay was not so long as yours, for I was but 6 days in the co[u]ntrey and had but one good day, but bad as the we[a]ther was, I had a good deal of compeny which made it the more aggr[ee]able.

I beli[e]ve now that cartan⁶⁰⁸ commis[sione]rs, with the assistance and advise of his brother⁶⁰⁹ hear has spent their fire and can doe noe more mischife now that they fined themselves and their scames⁶¹⁰ are set in a true light and that they can make littell credit or int[e]rest by there storys. My lord⁶¹¹ is very good and obliging in the whole affear and tho[ugh] Mr Conolly⁶¹² did not tr[o]uble him with letters, yet he is convinced of his fri[e]ndship by others. But I beli[e]ve they had done but nothing. I wish more then we had done with them for ever, which I cannot help hoping.

Lord and Lady Fitzwilliams⁶¹³ parting is no surprise [to] me for I wonder they wear so long together. Her allowances is scandallus. I think she might have d[o]ubbed that sume. I h[e]ard at forst it was [£]250. As to L[or]d and Lady Forbes,⁶¹⁴ I though[t] it had bine done some time agoe.

I am glad, let it be ever soe disag[g]re[e]able to you, that you have named the month for your l[e]aveing London, for its naturall for p[e]opell to wish what gi[v]es them selves sathisfacton, which I am sure seeing you will give me.

Mr Conolly gives you and Mr Tickell his best wishes and sarviss and wo[ul]d answer Mr Tickells letter but has littell to say that can be any way intertaning⁶¹⁵ from [here].

I l[e]ave Lady Eustis⁶¹⁶ to tell you the chat of the town which I think is very dull. I sopose you have h[e]ard that Mr Boyle⁶¹⁷ for a wick was at great truth and p[a]ines about that he wo[ul]d stand for Sp[e]aker, which was a most simpell project when Mr Conolly never had a thought of declining the ch[a]ire. When Mr Conolly sent him word he h[e]ard of it, he came hear, made many appoligys, was much ashamed (as he had g[r]eat re[a]son to be) and sayed he had not bine told. He wo[ul]d decline the ch[a]ire. He had not stood and asked pardon for what he had done. Soe I think

⁶⁰⁶ Clotilda Tickell (*née* Eustace): see letters nos 30, 45, notes 312, 536.

⁶⁰⁷ *Lege* fate.

⁶⁰⁸ *Lege* certain.

⁶⁰⁹ Unidentified; see note 611 below.

⁶¹⁰ *Lege* schemes.

⁶¹¹ Probably referring to Lord Carteret (1690–1763). The context of the letter suggests machinations to remove Conolly from the revenue board, or at least to diminish his interest there. Conolly was ill at this point and had not been in regular attendance at the board. The editors are grateful to Patrick Walsh for this information. See also letter no. 49 (Katherine Conolly to Charles Delafaye, 22 Apr. 1729).

⁶¹² William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁶¹³ Richard (c. 1677–1743), 5th Viscount Fitzwilliam married Frances Shelley (c. 1672–1771), c. 1705: *HIP*

⁶¹⁴ William (b. *ante* 1689–1730), 14th Lord Forbes married Dorothy Dale in 1720: *HIP*.

⁶¹⁵ *Lege* entertaining.

⁶¹⁶ Clotilda Eustace (*née* Parsons) (d. c. 1752).

⁶¹⁷ Henry Boyle (1684–1764), 1st earl of Shannon, was MP for Co. Cork, 1715–56. In 1729 he considered standing as William Conolly's successor. Elected Speaker in 1733, he held the office until 1756 when he was ennobled: *HIP*; *DIB*.

that affears at an end. He told Mr Conolly he had wrot[e] to him and had a scoure⁶¹⁸ of his and our fri[e]nds to dine with us whear⁶¹⁹ I assure his and all his famallys health was drunk most heart[i]ly [and] sencerly more than wanst.

Mr Conollys and my humble sarvics attend all that good famally. I am Mr Tickells humbl[e] sarvant and allways to you dear madam, a most feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

Tickell papers

57. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 MAY 1729

I had tow letters from my dear sister senas I come hear, wan of [the] 17[th] and of the 20[th] which came yesterday. I am sor[r]y you compla[i]ne still of your head and cough and the we[a]ther continues still soe uncartane.⁶²⁰ If you have wan fine day, we have 2 cold and bleak, with e[a]sterly or north e[a]ste winds.

I sho[we]d your brother part of Mr Whestanes⁶²¹ letter. Your brother thanks you for your kindness in that matter. He had a let[t]er from Mr Richison⁶²² yesterday that tells him the Friday following it was to be settled some way or other.

You inquire how the good Arch Bishop left his effects.⁶²³ Doctor Troter⁶²⁴ who is now hear tells me he has left to the vallaw⁶²⁵ of 14000 or 15 thousand pound, tho[ugh] not much re[a]dy mon[e]y. He has left all to his nephew a clargyman, wan Mr Ducket,⁶²⁶ now minnister of the Round Church which the Bishop gave him leatly. About 7 or 800 pound in mon[e]y, his house, the improvements vallawed at 1400 pound, his books at [£]5000, his pleat,⁶²⁷ furniture and carr[iage], his horsis abo[u]t [£]2000, and [£]300 a year he purchased; few or no legeseys; 40 po[u]nd to the Bishop of Tume,⁶²⁸ as much to the Bishop [of] Clougher,⁶²⁹ [£]500 to the Collige,

⁶¹⁸ *Lege* score (i.e. twenty in number).

⁶¹⁹ *Lege* where.

⁶²⁰ *Lege* uncertain.

⁶²¹ Possibly referring to Warner Westenras (1706–72), MP for Maryborough: *HIP*; see letter no 34.

⁶²² John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁶²³ William King, archbishop of Dublin (1650–1729), died in April 1729 and left an estate of £17,000: see Philip O'Regan, *Archbishop William King of Dublin (1650–1729) and the constitution in church and state* (Dublin, 2000); *DIB*.

⁶²⁴ Thomas Trotter (1684–1745), vicar general of the diocese of Dublin, master in chancery, married Jane, daughter of Sir Abel Ram. Trotter was an ecclesiastical lawyer.

⁶²⁵ *Lege* value.

⁶²⁶ Robert Dougatt succeeded John Travers (1663–1727) as rector of St Andrew's Church, Dublin, a post he held from 1719 to 1730. Due to its elliptical shape, the church was commonly known as the 'Round Church': John James M'Gregor, *New picture of Dublin comprehending a history of the city* (Dublin, 1821), p. 96.

⁶²⁷ *Lege* [silver]plate.

⁶²⁸ Edward Synge (1666–1741), archbishop of Tuam, was a close colleague of William King, who deputised for him when he was ill.

⁶²⁹ John Stearne (1660–1745) became bishop of Clogher in 1717. He had a long association with William King.

as much to the Blew boys hospitall.⁶³⁰ He leatly purchased impropiatons⁶³¹ to the vallaw of 1600 po[u]nd which he gave to agistments⁶³² to poor livings. His will made 4 years agoe. Senas his will [was written] he gave the Collidge⁶³³ the 500 po[u]nd[s], but his excoter⁶³⁴ most pay it [again], it [had] not be[en] canc[el]led in his will. He had made another will but not parficted⁶³⁵ it. He did not give privit⁶³⁶ derections to his nephew, no sort of provision for his simpell sister that he m[a]inteaned, some few legaseys to his sarvants. This is all I hear of his will. We long to hear who will succeed him; I wish it be half as good a man.⁶³⁷

I am glad you have got and likes the quilt. I think you will not lik[e] to lay under it, it being too he[a]vey and stif[f]e for that purposs. All the idell ladys of Dublin is fallen a knotting.⁶³⁸ I get meny a prayer from there husbands that I have set there wifes and daughters to work. I beli[e]ve at least a 100 w[e]ight of the floss or untwisted threed⁶³⁹ is knot[t]ed w[hic]h is [all] used since I be gone,⁶⁴⁰ so thats won⁶⁴¹ good for the manyfactrey. I have got no fine threed yet. I shall add no more [than] your brothers and my sarvices, and [I] am with great truth my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] I shall long to hear your cough and h[e]ad ack is better. I sent to Mrs Buckly,⁶⁴² I left her very ill, but I hear senas she is better.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

58. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE,⁶⁴³ 17 JUNE 1729

Sir,

I hope this will find you quite recov[e]red of your gout. I hope the good we[a]ther we have had of leat has freed you from that une[a]sey p[a]ine, for no fri[e]nd you have wishes it more senc[e]r[e]ly then Mr Conolly⁶⁴⁴ and I doth. I thank God Mr

⁶³⁰ The Hospital and Free School of King Charles II, known as the Blue Coat School, was founded in 1669 at Oxmantown Green, Dublin.

⁶³¹ Impropiation, a term from ecclesiastical law, was the destination of the income from tithes of an ecclesiastical benefice to a layman.

⁶³² The definition of agistment within the law was formerly the taking and feeding of other men's cattle in the king's forests.

⁶³³ *Lege* Trinity College Dublin.

⁶³⁴ *Lege* executor.

⁶³⁵ *Lege* perfected, to make something completely free from faults or defects.

⁶³⁶ *Lege* private.

⁶³⁷ Archbishop William King was succeeded by John Hoadly (1678–1746), bishop of Ferns. Hoadly was English which would not have pleased Mrs Conolly. For Hoadly see *DIB*.

⁶³⁸ A popular craft of tying knots in yarn to make carpets or other decorative items.

⁶³⁹ *Lege* thread.

⁶⁴⁰ *Lege* begun.

⁶⁴¹ *Lege* one.

⁶⁴² Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

⁶⁴³ Charles Delafaye (1677–1762): see letter no. 11, note 86.

⁶⁴⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729).

Conolly enjoys a prity good steat of health, and wo[ul]d be much better had he a littell time now and then to get to his co[u]ntrey house, which tho[ugh] but 8 miles from this, he has bine but twist⁶⁴⁵ there senas last October. And now he is every day at least 6 hours at the Custom-house, they haveing leatly dete[c]tted a villiney among the tide-officers at Rings-end⁶⁴⁶ which gives him much tr[o]uble and une[a]seyness, for everything of that kind gives him more une[a]seyness then I am sure it doth any other, and some has there feverouts⁶⁴⁷ that can doe no wrang.

I wish some of the commis[s]ioners wear ord[e]red to there bissness, for I think it is hard he sho[ul]d allways have the labbering⁶⁴⁸ over on him. I hope any commis[sio]ner will come but the last⁶⁴⁹ that left this, which I hope I shall never see [or] hear [of] again, and had you wan thats hear allsoe, I deer say all bissness wo[ul]d goe much better one,⁶⁵⁰ both for the kings and [the] co[u]ntreys sarvices, for I will not say all I co[ul]d but the pried⁶⁵¹ and insolancas⁶⁵² of some p[e]opell that has being used soe fare above there hopes or expectens⁶⁵³ is not to be immaganed.

I mention [all] this to you as a fri[e]nd – I wish you co[ul]d make a good use of it – for I can not but think if S[ir] R[obert] W[alpole] knew, all these matters might be made e[a]sey, but we most submit to the higher powers. I aske pardon for giveing you this and many former tr[o]ubles. Mr Conolly is at the Custom-house whear he has bine senas 9 this morning. Its now 3 and they send me word they ear makeing up the packet, for I as[s]ure you Mr Conolly knew not that I have told you these tr[o]ubles.

I am Mrs Dallafays humble sarvant and sir, with great truth, your obliged humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

TNA, SP 63/391/71–2

59. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 16 SEPTEMBER 1729

I am too letters in my dear sisters deat, wan by the packet, the other by Mr Richison [who arrived] last night with wan inclosed to the bishop of Waterford⁶⁵⁴ which I will send this night, for he does not talk of l[e]aving Watherford for ten days yet and perhaps not then.

I am heart[i]lly glad to hear you think your self better in yours by post, but in yours by Mr Richison, which I had 2 days after, you say you wear then very bad, but it was of the oldest deat⁶⁵⁵ soe I hope in God your amendment continues.

⁶⁴⁵ *Lege* twice.

⁶⁴⁶ Ringsend, Co. Dublin, entry point for shipping and passengers into Dublin.

⁶⁴⁷ *Lege* favourites.

⁶⁴⁸ *Lege* labouring.

⁶⁴⁹ Giles Earle (1678–1758), a commissioner of the Irish revenue 1728–37; he left Ireland after a brief appearance at the Custom House on 14 December 1728; a lord of the treasury 1737–42: TNA, CUST 1/21 f. 22; *HoP*: 1715–54.

⁶⁵⁰ *Lege* on.

⁶⁵¹ *Lege* pride.

⁶⁵² *Lege* insolence.

⁶⁵³ *Lege* expectations.

⁶⁵⁴ Thomas Mills (1671–1740), Church of Ireland bishop of Waterford and Lismore, 1708–40: *NHI*, ix, 422.

⁶⁵⁵ *Lege* date.

I had – I mean your brother had – a most dismall sad letter from poor Molly⁶⁵⁶ which I do not know but I mentioned to you in my last. It moved both your brother and I into tears. She beg[ge]d your brother wo[ul]d sup[p]ley Mr Burton⁶⁵⁷ with a sume of mon[e]y to make them e[a]sey but did not name it, and I fear a very larg[e] wan will not doe, for they have a both an extravagant squandering way which has offten vexed me, and I find they have drawen, nay there agent says over drawen him, 500 pound. How it is God knows, but your brother has made me writ[e] her a very kind answer that as so[o]ne as he sees Mr Burton and that he will let him know his curcomstancs.⁶⁵⁸ There is nothing in his power but what he will do for their sarvics on condition they will think of comeing home.⁶⁵⁹ I have not senas h[e]ard from her – nor can I immagion what is become of Frank – for its now 28 days senas he got to Nantes, whear he wrote me he had a ship re[a]dy. And I wo[ul]d have wrot[e] to you by the last packet but weating to have told you he was landed, which if I hear before I seall this you shall.

As to my poor ness C[onyng]ham,⁶⁶⁰ I know not what will become of her for I have had her worthless husband spoke to severall times. He still says he has sent her money, and about the boy,⁶⁶¹ that if he wo[ul]d let him be sent for [to stay] hear, there sho[ul]d be care taken of them. This I made Col[one]l Dallaway⁶⁶² propose to him, and he told him that if he wo[ul]d let him have the boy there sho[ul]d be as much care taken of him as of any lords child in this kingdom, for I wo[ul]d not have him know we⁶⁶³ wo[ul]d doe it. He sayd he was sending for his wife and son. Col[one]l Dallaway has a box of the disputed plat[e]⁶⁶⁴ in his hands and he proposed to Williams that if he wo[ul]d joyn with him in selling the plat[e] – on condition the mon[e]y was sent to his wife – he wo[ul]d not t[o]uch nor desire a pen[n]yworth of it. If not, he thinks the right in him and he will sell it and send her the mon[e]y, for Dallaway has the oppanon⁶⁶⁵ of la[w]yers that the right is in him and this he beli[e]ves he will bring him⁶⁶⁶ to consent to very so[o]ne. He has taken a wick to consider it. 200d pound is what Dallaway insists to have sent her and he beli[e]ves the pleat will come to [£]3[00].

The Munster meall⁶⁶⁷ is come in and no letters from Frank Burton. A letter

⁶⁵⁶ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyng]ham) (d. 1737).

⁶⁵⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶⁵⁸ *Lege* circumstances.

⁶⁵⁹ Mary (Missy) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) were residing in France at this time.

⁶⁶⁰ Constance Conyng]ham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767), wife of Williams Conyng]ham (1698–1738).

⁶⁶¹ William (Billy) Conolly Conyng]ham (1721–37). His mother remarked that his father ‘has little power to be of any service to him’: Constance Conyng]ham to Jane Bonnell, 10 Mar. 1729 (NLI, MS 41,579/2).

⁶⁶² Robert Dalaway (1669–1740) see letter no. 39, note 454.

⁶⁶³ Katherine Conolly (1662–1752) was willing to raise her nephew’s son in her own house as she had done for other nieces and nephews. This may have partly been the reason for the distance Constance (1698–1767) kept from her ‘aunt’ Katherine: see introduction to this edition.

⁶⁶⁴ Referring to silverplate, the ownership of which was being disputed by Williams Conyng]ham (1698–1738) and his estranged wife Constance: see also letter no. 56.

⁶⁶⁵ *Lege* opinion.

⁶⁶⁶ Williams Conyng]ham (1698–1738).

⁶⁶⁷ *Lege* mail. Shipping from France to Ireland came to the south-west coast, so letters were landed at Cork and sent on to Dublin.

derected to him from Munster to this house, soe thire⁶⁶⁸ they think he is hear. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/4

60. KATHERINE CONOLLY'S POST-SCRIPT TO THOMAS PEARSON'S LETTER FROM DUBLIN, TO MADAME BURTON, RUE DE LA CHARBONNERIE, DIJON, FRANCE, 29 SEPTEMBER 1729

I now write to you by the directions of my sister Conolly⁶⁶⁹ to forward to [*sic*] [the] inclosed to you. You will undoubtedly be well pleased to hear that Mr Burton⁶⁷⁰ is safe arrived after so tedious and dangerous a passage. At the same time I must acquaint you w[i]th the ill state of health my brother Conolly⁶⁷¹ is now in. Last Thursday when he was in the House of Commons his former disorder return[e]d and he was forced to be brought hom[e]. He continues still under the hands of the physsitians⁶⁷² who have vomited, bed purged and blister[e]d him pretty severely ... [Note by Katherine Conolly at the bottom of this letter]

The 30 [September 1729]

I have bine fright[en]ed and am still ter[r]ifyd. God only knows what will be the consequen[ce]s. Tho[ugh] we think him better, I cannot be e[a]sey. God of his marcy restore him to me. Seall Mollys⁶⁷³ letter and send away to her as soon as possible.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

61. KATHERINE CONOLLY, [DUBLIN], TO JANE BONNELL, 4 OCTOBER 1729

Dear sister,

I wrot[e] last post in great hurry and must do so now. Your brother⁶⁷⁴ is I thank God better but still wack⁶⁷⁵ and low. I am still fright[en]ed tho[ugh] the docters thinks him out of danger, yet I have still my fears. I sent you last post a letter from Frank⁶⁷⁶ to you and Molly Burton – which I know you sent her emedatly⁶⁷⁷ as you will this – which he sends open for my and your perusell, which [then] seall and send. I have wrot[e] a line in it.

I am my dear sister intyerly yours, K: C:

⁶⁶⁸ *Lege* there.

⁶⁶⁹ His sister-in-law Katherine Conolly (*née* Conyngham) (1662–1752).

⁶⁷⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶⁷¹ William Conolly (1662–1729), who was ill having suffered a stroke.

⁶⁷² *Lege* physicians.

⁶⁷³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁶⁷⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁶⁷⁵ *Lege* weak.

⁶⁷⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) who was now in Ireland; his wife Mary (Missy) (d. 1737) was on her return to Ireland from France through England.

⁶⁷⁷ *Lege* immediately.

[PS] Just now I had yours of the 27[th]. Just now I can say nothing as to the disputable pleat⁶⁷⁸ but yesterday Col[one]l Dallaway⁶⁷⁹ told me he sho[ul]d e[i]ther send her⁶⁸⁰ the worth of it. I can add no more but still yours, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/4

62. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 7 OCTOBER 1729

I promised my dear sister I wo[ul]d writ[e] or make some body writ[e] to you every post. I can now tell you with great joy and thankfulness to God, that we all think your brother out of danger. He is very wack still, but now they doe nothing but make him continue his Bark,⁶⁸¹ now but wanst in 5 or 6 hours instead of every 3 hours, and the ague I think is quit[e] off[, tho[ugh] his hot fits I think some times returns, tho[ugh] not with such [violence?].

I h[e]ard from Frank⁶⁸² yesterday. I have by this post sent a letter to his wife⁶⁸³ he sent me to send her. I can add no more but to assure you I am with great truth your ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] They ear all prity well at Dollinstown.⁶⁸⁴ I can say nothing more about the disputable pleat for I hardly ever l[e]ave your brothers room.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

63. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO CHARLES DELAFAYE, 18 OCTOBER 1729

Sir,

I told you in my last that I wo[ul]d send you Mr Conolly's answer to the reselousen of the House of Commons [and] there new Sp[e]akers⁶⁸⁵ speech, which I co[ul]d not dow till this packet. As [the] Lord Chancellors speech is not printed [yet] I cannot send it at full but has a part of it.

Mr Conolly is I thank God some thing better but his flux is not stop[p]ed, tho[ugh] some what more moddret,⁶⁸⁶ but it has wackened⁶⁸⁷ him much. But I trust in God he will be so[o]ne better. And I doe as[s]ure you he makes himself worse with his une[a]seyness that he is not able to attend the services of the House of Commons, whear I find he is every day wanted and we deer⁶⁸⁸ not tell him when

⁶⁷⁸ *Lege* [silver]plate: see letter no. 54.

⁶⁷⁹ Robert Dalaway (1669–1740): see letter no. 39, note 454.

⁶⁸⁰ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁶⁸¹ Cinchona bark, also called Jesuit's bark, was used to treat intermittent fevers.

⁶⁸² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶⁸³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁶⁸⁴ Dolanstown, Slane, Co. Meath, the Jones family residence.

⁶⁸⁵ Sir Ralph Gore (c. 1675–1733) was speaker of the Irish House of Commons, 1729–33: see letter no. 90, note 376, *HIP*; *DIB*; Hughes, *Patentee officers*.

⁶⁸⁶ *Lege* moderated.

⁶⁸⁷ *Lege* weakened.

⁶⁸⁸ *Lege* dare.

any question goes against us, for he and his fri[e]nd is sure if he had bine there things wo[ul]d goe better. If he knew this, no consideraten wo[ul]d keep him at home. Tho[ugh] he can hardly stand, he wacke⁶⁸⁹ walk[s] twist⁶⁹⁰ the len[g]th of his room. I trust in God I shall in a few days give you a more aggr[ee]able account of him for I am sure the King has not a more [damaged] subjct and wan that has ever disstigunished⁶⁹¹ him self more for his int[e]rest then he has, nor all his fri[e]nds wan more sencear⁶⁹² for there sarvices.

I aske pardon for all my long scroulls⁶⁹³ but when I mention your fri[e]nd⁶⁹⁴ to you, I cannot find the way to have done. I writ[e] this as I did the last, by him, he is asleep but has not had a very good night. I am sir, with great truth, your obliged and most humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[Extract from lord chancellor's speech]

Mr Chanc[el]l[o]r of the Exchequor

His excellency is extr[e]amly concerned that the long and feathfull sarvices of the leate⁶⁹⁵ sp[e]aker should have soe fare impa[i]red his health at this time as to make him decline an office which he has filled for meny year with great honner.

(The next was compliments to the new Sp[e]aker)

Care of the inclosed I most allsoe intreat your favear in.

I dou[b]t not but you have all these from other hands, but I can not for bear sending you every thing that soe nearly consarns my dear Mr Conolly.

TNA, SP 63/391/168–9

64. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 18 OCTOBER 1729

My brother Pearson⁶⁹⁶ wrot[e] to you last packet. I can only tell you your brother is not worse I thank God. Yesterday his flux was a litt[e]ll abbated but [he] was up 4 times in the night. It has wacked⁶⁹⁷ him very much and much dispurited⁶⁹⁸ him. He has docters, but what then when we can not get him [to] take what they order him. In most of his stools there is a very little blood mixed [with] an ougly⁶⁹⁹ jelly kind of subsistans⁷⁰⁰ but the docters says they doe not think much of that. He is not favarish nor very drouthy.⁷⁰¹ Some of us shall writ[e] nixt post to you.

⁶⁸⁹ *Lege* weakly.

⁶⁹⁰ *Lege* twice.

⁶⁹¹ *Lege* distinguished.

⁶⁹² *Lege* sincere.

⁶⁹³ *Lege* scrolls.

⁶⁹⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁶⁹⁵ *Lege* late.

⁶⁹⁶ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736), William Conolly's (1662–1729) brother-in-law.

⁶⁹⁷ *Lege* weakened.

⁶⁹⁸ *Lege* dispirited.

⁶⁹⁹ *Lege* ugly.

⁷⁰⁰ *Lege* substance.

⁷⁰¹ An archaic or Scottish dialect word for thirsty.

I had a letter from Frank.⁷⁰² Senas I wrot[e] last he says nothing of comeing hear. When you writ[e] to Molly⁷⁰³ I wo[ul]d have you advise frugallity to her, espeshely now in her husbands absenc[e]s, for its now d[o]ubell expens[e] and its much more prudant it sho[ul]d be the wife sho[ul]d save than the husband. To this purposs I have wrot[e] to her and wo[ul]d have you doe soe too.

I can add no more but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/4

65. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 9 DECEMBER 1729

I had my dear sisters kind letter. I pray God I may mak[e] the right use of my heavy affliction⁷⁰⁴ and bear it as I ought and be thankfull for the long and hap[p]ly time I had with my dear, dear, Mr Conelly. But allass those hap[p]y times is over with me. But I doe, and I hope from my heart I say, Lord thy will not mine be done. And yet I fear I doe or say it as I ought, but I shall still ende[a]ver to doe as I ought or possibly can in my curcomstances. If deying like a good man and being trully lemented can be a comfort to me, I have it, and great kindness and goodness from all p[e]opell both in England and hear, even from the King⁷⁰⁵ and ministrey, to the meanest of the p[e]opell.

But I expect nothing but plague and tr[o]uble from our cursed nephew Willi[am]s.⁷⁰⁶ He comes, makes great court to me, but the other night in writing to me [asked me] to send him emedety⁷⁰⁷ 300 po[u]nd, but I sent him a short answer I had it not, and if I had, I had much to doe with it. For by the time I have put my house and famally in m[o]urning I shall have nothing of between [£]2 and [£]3000 for 6 rooms in m[o]urning and 70 p[e]opell,⁷⁰⁸ will make me very bear⁷⁰⁹ except I live a year or two. But this is little of what he intends, for he will take me out of my own house to shear,⁷¹⁰ or some whear make me sell my Welch estear⁷¹¹ give him the mon[e]y [and]

⁷⁰² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁷⁰³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁷⁰⁴ William Conolly died in his Dublin townhouse on 30 October 1729. This is the first extant letter written by Katherine following his death. For accounts of his death and funeral see Francis Burton to Jane Bonnell, 31 Oct., 9 Nov. 1729 (NLI, MS 41,579/9); *The order of proceeding to the funeral of the Rt Hon. William Conolly, Esq., late speaker of the House of Commons ... on Tuesday the 4th of November, 1729* (Dublin, 1729).

⁷⁰⁵ George II (1683–1760).

⁷⁰⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁷⁰⁷ *Lege* immediately.

⁷⁰⁸ The number of servants Katherine and William Conolly employed between their Dublin townhouse and their estate in Castletown, Co. Kildare.

⁷⁰⁹ *Lege* bare.

⁷¹⁰ *Lege* share.

⁷¹¹ The Welsh estates, originally brought into the Conyngham family through the marriage in 1696 of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) to Mary, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710), came under the control and possession of William Conolly (1662–1729) *c.* 1707 while Conolly was acting as executor of his brother-in-law's estate and guardian to his children Williams (1698–1738), Henry (Harry) (1707–81) and Mary (Missy) Conyngham (d. 1737). These estates eventually passed to Katherine Conolly for her lifetime and became a bone of contention between her and her nephews Williams and Henry (Harry) Conyngham. For the settlement by William Conolly (1662–1729) of his estates, including his estates in north and south Wales, see IAA, Castletown papers, G/6/1; see also NLI, MSS 35,339–35,434 (Conyngham papers), in particular MS 35,423 (3).

make over [£]2000 a year of my jo[i]nter to him for 5 years. For he cannot see how now an old woman can spend [£]500 a year and to this purposs. But none of this [he said] to me but to my sister Jones⁷¹² and others when she came to see me. I did but tell him I had 40 or 50 sarvants [and] as they were his unkells, I wo[ul]d turn off non[e] of them while they behaved as they sho[ul]d doe. And as he had left me a great fortune, I wo[ul]d live up to the h[e]ight as his wodow in every respect.

Sense I wrot[e] this fare,⁷¹³ I had yours of the 29[th] November. This is the forst letter I have wrote sence the 20[th] of October. We can add no more but in what ever state or condition I am, I am still your ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] I have sent yours a paper that I think is worth your reeding; I am sure its truth.

NLI, MS 41,578/4

66. KATHERINE CONOLLY TO JANE BONNELL, 27 DECEMBER 1729

I had my dear sisters of the 20th last packet and has but littell to say nor have I time, for tho[ugh] I doe not see compeny yet, but wan affear or other keeps me bisey.⁷¹⁴

You say I am hoping that my unhap[p]y nephew⁷¹⁵ can not give me tr[o]uble, but there is not a day senas my misfortunes⁷¹⁶ that he doth not give me meny tr[o]ubles, and by the inclosed you may see how unr[e]asonable and une[a]sey he is. Send me back this copy. I am very sorry for your good friend Mr Whitham⁷¹⁷ and your brother has offten [offered] it.

When right jacklet⁷¹⁸ comes in and [is] ch[e]aper let me know and the first ship that goes from this I'll send you a little of wine out of my celler. They wrang⁷¹⁹ me that that [*sic*] says I drink too much watter. I can say nothing about the chire⁷²⁰ yet but if I co[ul]d have had a good wan, some thing ch[e]aper I believe, I sho[ul]d have had some thoughts. But till I have some mon[e]y dew me in England or co[ul]d send it by a privit ha[n]d, [I] will not think of it.

My dear child⁷²¹ is very bisey writing to you by me. I am my dear sisters one,⁷²²
K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/4

⁷¹² Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁷¹³ *Lege* far.

⁷¹⁴ *Lege* busy.

⁷¹⁵ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁷¹⁶ Referring to the death of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁷¹⁷ Robert Whitham died at the end of 1729. At the time of William Conolly's death he was completing the purchase of the Vintner's Company land.

⁷¹⁸ *Lege* chocolate.

⁷¹⁹ *Lege* wrong.

⁷²⁰ *Lege* chair. Katherine had ordered a special mourning chair from London.

⁷²¹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁷²² *Lege* own.

SECTION 2

1730-1734

LETTERS 67–112

The letters contained in this section were written in the years immediately following William (Speaker) Conolly's death in October 1729. Conolly's death left Katherine a wealthy and independent woman. In this period she becomes more closely involved in the lives of her extended family and relations, and introduces Lady Anne Conolly and her family.

67. [FRAGMENT IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND [c. 1729[/30]]

I wo[ul]d have sent you all my sisters¹ let[t]er and not these scraw[l]s but it was ab[ou]t by her things. B[rothe]r Jones left her 50 to b[u]y m[o]urning.

NLI, MS 41,578/18

68. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL [c. FEBRUARY 1729[/30]]

The inclosed from Mr Sam[p]son² gives you an account of b[rothe]r Jones³ is [*sic*] death which is very hap[p]y I hope for him and all his famally, for as he has lived to merricall⁴ for some years, soe never woman was such a slave as his wife. Hardly wan night in bed with out being up at least twist a night and many nights oftener. How he has left his affairs I know not. I sent cousen Duncon⁵ to hear⁶ e[a]rly yesterday morning for fear Mr Sam[p]son might doe some thing to her that was not right, for she was obliged to give him her bond for 2 or 300 po[u]nd if ever she was a widow, to keep him and Mr Jones from a scandallous law shute.⁷ For such a bill as he prefer[re]d ag[ains]t Mr Jones and the answer Mr Jones put in, was a most scandallus affair if it had come to trayell.⁸ Soe to make paces⁹ and keep paces as she did this, which will give her much tr[o]uble ear she got it payd.

¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) widow of Richard Jones (1662–1729).

² Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 7, note 56.

³ Richard Jones, husband of Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765), of Dolanstown, Co. Meath, born 1662, died 2 Feb. 1729[/30] and is buried in Rodanstown church, Rodanstown, Co. Meath.

⁴ *Lege* miracle.

⁵ Unidentified, but possibly a member of Katherine's extended family with legal experience.

⁶ *Lege* her.

⁷ *Lege* suit.

⁸ *Lege* trial.

⁹ *Lege* peace.

There is just now a packet come in but I have had no letters but my news papers. If any come in before I seall this you shall know, as allsoe how sister Jones doth, for I have sent a sarvant there this day. This sho[ul]d have gone a Tu[e]sday but no boot¹⁰ in this side till just now. Last wick a boot was lost neer Hollyheed, but the mealls¹¹ and p[e]opall all saved.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] I had yours of the 29[th] with wan inclosed from my ness Conyngham. My sister Jones is prity well I h[e]ard just now.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

69. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 4 FEBRUARY 1729[/30]

I had 2 letters from my dear sister, the forst of the 15[th], the other of the 22[nd] and am sor[r]y you ear still soe much out of order, as I find you continue both by my letters and Frank Burtons and my brother Pearsons.¹²

My brother and sister¹³ l[e]aves me to morrow which is a great tr[o]uble to me.¹⁴ Indeed they have been very kind in staying soe long with me and [I] wo[ul]d have you when you writ[e] to him to mention it as a thing I take very kindly, for I have told them they shall never be in any other house than this while I live. For as I fit[t]ed up those rooms they have purpossly for them, they ear still as wellcome to them as ever they wear and allways shall, for I am sure it wo[ul]d give me great tr[o]uble if they did not on all accasions make my house there owne.

As to Willi[am]s,¹⁵ I nather see nor hear of him this fortnight past but that he is ill with sad bracking¹⁶ out in his faces and is under a course for it. But tho[ugh] confined at home [he] has an idell set of compeny with him that parts at 5 or 6 in the morning, and he rises at 5 or 6 soe to ten [p.m.], and at ten at night to diner, and at 4 in the morning to super. How he can hold out is a miricoll.¹⁷

As to what you aske about Mr Richison,¹⁸ your brother off[e]red him a present but I am sure he refused it then. Wither he affterwards to[o]ke it I can not tell, but I beli[e]ve not. Frank tells me you have got the ten g[u]iniys. I thought sending it by a fri[e]nd was the spe[e]dyst way to send you some wine, but you will have a hogs he[a]d of french wine I hope so[o]ne, for in ten days it will l[e]ave this and you will have no tr[o]uble abut it till its sent in to you. I am glad you have got the ten g[u]ineys to lay out in such wine as agrees best with you.

¹⁰ *Lege* boat.

¹¹ *Lege* mails.

¹² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–37) and Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹³ Col Thomas Pearson and his wife Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

¹⁴ Katherine was still grieving and in extreme mourning following the death of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729) on 30 October 1729.

¹⁵ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁶ *Lege* breaking.

¹⁷ *Lege* miracle.

¹⁸ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

Pray be spake¹⁹ a m[o]urning chear²⁰ for me. You must allsoe agree for a packing box for it and all things compleat, and to be left e[i]ther at Knox and Nisbets or at Mr Goulds,²¹ and I will writ[e] so[o]ne to Mr Gould to pay you the money.

As to Mrs Hamilton²² of Ostend, never mind her nor her letters for she is a poor worthless cr[e]ature. For till I made an agreeem[en]t between her and her son,²³ I off[t]en gave her close²⁴ and mon[e]y which was [spent?] for drams²⁵ as fast as she got them. And for some years past her son pays her 25 pound a year and was for her arrars²⁶ to give her 50 pound, 40 of which she did receive before me, and I sopose the rest senas, and meny letters and much tr[o]uble I had to get it done. But she is never to be satisfeyd and hardly any lady in town but she has bine a beg[g]ling with, and I know meny that has given her close and mon[e]y.

The esquath²⁷ my brother²⁸ will send from Drougheda so[o]ne and I hope to get some safe hand to send it by [rest of letter missing]

NLI, MS 41,578/5

70. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 23 FEBRUARY 1729[/30]

I had 2 letters by 5 packets that came in last Friday from my dear sister of the 7th and 12th and did intend to have wrot[e] a Satterday but they sent me word from the post offices that the mealls²⁹ went off e[a]rrely that morning.

As to brother Jones,³⁰ he dealt as well with my sister³¹ as he co[ul]d. He has left her [£]200 a year which I beli[ev]e was settled on her, and had not power by a set[t]elment

¹⁹ *Lege* find/locate.

²⁰ Mary Delany recorded seeing Katherine Conolly sitting in a ‘grey, cloth, great chair’ when she visited Castletown: *Autobiography and correspondence of Mrs Delany*, iii, 159.

²¹ Gould & Nesbit acted as a financial conduit between Katherine and her sister Jane Bonnell in London. Katherine’s relationship with the Nesbitt family descends through the first marriage of Alice Conyngham, daughter of Alexander Conyngham and Marian Murray, to Alexander Nesbitt (her Scottish cousin) of Woodhall, Co. Donegal. She was also further related through the marriage of another member of the Conyngham family of Ballydevitt, Co. Donegal, into the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, c. 1690. Katherine’s connection with the firm of Gould & Nesbit stems from this family connection. Albert Nesbitt was the head of the London branch of the Co. Cavan Nesbits. Albert married Elizabeth Gould in 1729. She was the daughter and sister of members of the British House of Commons who were prominent as spokespersons of the mercantile and banking interests. Her brother Nathaniel Gould in particular was a heavy weight figure in the city, adviser to Robert Walpole and director and sometime governor of the Bank of England, 1720–38: Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements*, pp 50–51.

²² Unidentified. Various branches of Donegal Hamilton families were interrelated through marriage with the Conyngham family.

²³ Unidentified.

²⁴ *Lege* clothes.

²⁵ *Lege* drink.

²⁶ *Lege* arrears.

²⁷ *Lege* usquebaugh, meaning the cordial which was a popular medicinal alcohol.

²⁸ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

²⁹ *Lege* mails.

³⁰ Richard Jones (1662–1729).

³¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765). Katherine is discussing Richard Jones’s will following his recent death.

he made when his son³² came to age, to doe more. But his furnitor, stoke,³³ pleat,³⁴ linnin [that] he left her she very unwisely gave all in a present to her son emedately, without considering how she is injaged³⁵ in a deet³⁶ to Ra[l]ph Sam[p]son,³⁷ as you see by part of a letter I had from her a Satterday. I think she sho[ul]d have had that de[b]t forst clired.³⁸ Roger³⁹ tells me what she gave him is worth 6 or 700 po[u]nd. Pegy⁴⁰ has an innuety⁴¹ of 60 po[u]nd a year. Rogers esteat is now a set at above [£]800 a year, owes about 3000 po[u]nd. In 3 or 4 years le[a]sses will be out that will make it good a thousand a year. This is all I can know of there affairs.

Hary⁴² landed with the packet after being ten days betwe[e]n this and Chestor, 5 days at sea, 5 days at the Heed.⁴³ I have sayd nothing to him nor he to me of any bisness. I am glad to find his brother⁴⁴ and he upon good tearms at present which they wear not when they parted. They both dined hear the day after Hary landed.

As to Franks sending for his wife⁴⁵ and not going for her, I think he doth right, for his going wo[ul]d make it more expensive then her travelling without [him], and indeed the sumes they have spent a brood⁴⁶ is intol[er]able and they will not recover [financially] for some years except the law gives him the tow⁴⁷ 5000 po[u]nds there dear unkel⁴⁸ left them which I beli[e]ve it well.⁴⁹ I am sure he has sent her sences⁵⁰ he landed in Ierland 400 pounds or 500, I doe not remember which, besid[e]s 2000 pound he has ra[i]sed hear to remit to her to pay deets⁵¹ there and in

³² Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Richard Jones (1662–1729) and Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

³³ *Lege* stock.

³⁴ *Lege* [silver]plate.

³⁵ *Lege* engaged.

³⁶ *Lege* debt.

³⁷ Ralph Sampson married Jane Jones (c. 1717–85) in 1719: see letter no. 7, note 56.

³⁸ *Lege* cleared.

³⁹ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁴⁰ Referring to Peggy Jones, a daughter of Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Richard Jones (1662–1729), who later died.

⁴¹ *Lege* annuity.

⁴² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴³ Holyhead, Anglesey.

⁴⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴⁵ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737). During their time on the continent the couple had incurred large debts.

⁴⁶ *Lege* abroad.

⁴⁷ *Lege* two.

⁴⁸ William Conolly (1662–1729). Because of the diverse nature and spread of William Conolly's estates, his nephews and heirs, Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and William Conolly (1706–54) were obliged to pay legacies from different inheritances. Neither was swift to do so. There was also confusion concerning the legality and entitlement of the two bequests of £5000 Conolly made to Francis (Frank) and Mary (Missy) Burton as Conolly had already given Missy £5000 by deed before her daughter Molly was born in 1726: Francis Burton to Jane Bonnell, 19 Nov. 1729 (NLI, MS 41,579/9); Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*.

⁴⁹ *Recte* will.

⁵⁰ *Lege* since.

⁵¹ *Lege* debts.

London. And as my nephew Conolly⁵² was not willing to assinge⁵³ over soe much of the legesey, I was forsed to become boond [*sic*] with him for the 2000 po[u]nd which I very willingly did to make Frank e[a]sey. For I think him a wonderfull good man and you wo[ul]d admire his goodness to me in staying at home and wo[ul]d goe to no devartions if he thought I wo[ul]d be alone, which is much more aggr[ee]able to me then all the compeny in the world, but that my good fri[e]nds will not let me.

Now I beg you give Molly⁵⁴ your best advise as to frugallity which I have offten done and has wrot[e] [to] her on that heed⁵⁵ last packets. What used to vex me was seeing he often give her such close,⁵⁶ stays, and heed close, as was fit for any gentellwoman in the kingdoom to make there best appe[a]rances. This is wan artickle will run out mon[e]y when new wans most be put in there places. Make your one⁵⁷ obsarvaton on her and give your advise accordingly, for my heart is much on their hap[p]yness. He⁵⁸ owes a vast deall of mon[e]y. I beli[e]ve besides what is now remit[t]ed, that 7000 po[u]nd wo[ul]d doe no more than make them [e]asey, and with out some good manigement that will not be so[o]ne payd. There agent told me he had never sent them less than 900 or a t[h]ousand pound a year sences they left this, and the int[e]rest of mon[e]y and paying the land lords rents – for he holds [a] great part of his esteat⁵⁹ from Lord [?],⁶⁰ Lord Enooqueen,⁶¹ and others – they most be payd, for he has good barg[a]ins from them and a he[a]vey Crown Rent, and that cursed election⁶² that he was drawn into when his dear unkell⁶³ wo[ul]d have brought him in as he did before, and this election has cost him 1200 or 1400 pounds.

Mr John Hamilton⁶⁴ that you know l[e]aves this so[o]ne and will I hope take you tow⁶⁵ bottells of Esqubath. My brother Pearson⁶⁶ sent 4 botells for you which he will not let me pay for. I'll send the other tow as I get an opertunity.

I have by him sent 26 g[u]ineys for my black chear⁶⁷ I wrot[e] to you before about. You sho[ul]d agree with the ch[a]ire maker to case it and put it in a ship

⁵² William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵³ *Lege* assign.

⁵⁴ Referring to Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737),

⁵⁵ *Lege* head, subject.

⁵⁶ *Lege* clothes.

⁵⁷ *Lege* own.

⁵⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁹ *Lege* estate.

⁶⁰ Unidentified. Francis Burton (d. 1714), son of Samuel Burton (1657–1712) and Margarey (*née* Harris), and father of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), was a member of a partnership that purchased the forfeited estates of Viscount Clare from the earl of Albemarle in 1698. The Burtons also acquired land from the Ingoldsbys and the earl of Thomond (<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie>, accessed 12 Dec. 2014).

⁶¹ *Lege* Inchiquin. William McWilliam O'Brien, 4th earl of Inchiquin (1700–77).

⁶² Concerning the Donegal election: see Francis Burton to Jane Bonnell, 14 Feb., 9 Mar. 1729/30 (NLI, MS 41,579/10).

⁶³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁶⁴ Unidentified member of the interrelated Conyngham/Hamilton families.

⁶⁵ *Lege* two.

⁶⁶ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

⁶⁷ *Lege* chair: see letters nos 61 and 66.

boord,⁶⁸ which they will doe better than any body else can being used to it. If the mon[e]y doth not hold out I'll send more, for at present I am scaras,⁶⁹ for rents comes slo[w]lly in, mon[e]y being scarcer in Ierland than ever was knowen, accasioned as I beli[e]ve by the great scarcety of bread corn for 3 years before the last harvist, which God be pra[i]sed was a most plentiful wan, and as usell⁷⁰ the farmars say they have too much and can get nothing for it. It was offten computed that above three hondred thousand pounds went to forron⁷¹ markets in that time for corn, but I am sure there went at least a hondred thousand pound more. This is wan great ca[u]se of the scarcety of mon[e]y, and the 1000 pound my dear life⁷² left me has done no more than put my house, self, and 40 sarvants in m[o]urning. But I shall not have this compla[i]nt to make long, for if I live I shall have more than I can spend and I hope [to] be able to help my fri[e]nds, in which number I shall allways places you, for your wants has allways bine a great tr[o]uble to me.

Tho[ugh] I have wrot[e] this long letter without sturing,⁷³ I have my right hand swell[l]ed and tyed up with a rumaticke⁷⁴ p[a]ine and great wackiness.⁷⁵ My dear baby⁷⁶ is I thank God very well and will not I beli[e]ve be marked with her burn, which I bid Frank tell you off. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] Doe not let Ra[l]ph Sam[p]son know I sent you my sisters⁷⁷ letter. He is a [?] and] has spoke disrespectfly of my dear Mr Conolly. Tho[ugh] I see him, [I] takes no notiss upon his wifes⁷⁸ account.

[On inside of envelope] Mr Burton desir[e]s to be excused writing to you this night but will nixt packet. The esqubath is sealed this morning. Mr Hammilton says he will weit on you with it and the 26 g[u]ineys. If you want any more let me know. I'll send by the nixt safe hand.

NLI, MS 41,578/5

71. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 30 MARCH 1730

Dear sister,

I wrot[e] to you too days agoe and has little to say but to inclose my sister Jones⁷⁹ is [sic] letter which came hear to day, and she desired I wo[ul]d send it so[o]ne to you.

⁶⁸ *Lege* board.

⁶⁹ *Lege* scarce.

⁷⁰ *Lege* usual.

⁷¹ *Lege* foreign.

⁷² Referring to Katherine's husband, William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁷³ *Lege* stirring.

⁷⁴ *Lege* rheumatic.

⁷⁵ *Lege* weakness.

⁷⁶ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁷⁷ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁷⁸ Jane Jones (d. c. 1785), daughter of Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Richard Jones (1662–1729).

⁷⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

I continue I thank you prity well as doth all my fri[e]nds hear. Harry⁸⁰ hear to day, he seems to make great court to me but as he never did it before, I doe not much mind it now. I h[e]ard to day from Frank,⁸¹ he sent me the inclosed which I send to you to have put in the post offices.

I am my dear sisters most affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[In another hand]

A Madame,

Madame Burton, Dame Anglaise recommandée at Monsieur Crommelin de Vilette d'un Quiers, à Paris

NLI, MS 41,578/5

72. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 9 APRIL 1730

3 packets came in and no letters from my dear sister. I sopose before this my nephew Conolly⁸² has bin to weat⁸³ on you. The inclosed came to Castelltown with my letters last wick but as I have not wrot[e] senas to you, I co[ul]d not send it so[o]nner.

I had a let[t]er yesterday from sister Jones.⁸⁴ She says last wick she sent me a letter with wan inclose[d] to you but I never got it, as I shall writ[e] to her.

By one Capt[ain] Gradon,⁸⁵ I send you a great bundle of cases and copys of deeds and the copy of the will, which is all to be sayd before his counsell.⁸⁶ But if he told me how⁸⁷ they wear to be given to or derect [damaged], I have forgot, but perhaps you know. I know its I think wan Burton, but not his brother.⁸⁸ If you know how⁸⁹ it is, you had best [arrange] for the delivering of them. I [think there] sho[ul]d be no time lost about them. I [damaged] wrot[e] this night to Frank⁹⁰ that I shall [send] them to you and has desired he may give [advice] about them, but if you can doe it before his letter comes it will be best.

Mrs Buckley⁹¹ and all your fri[e]nds ear pritty well. [damaged] is come and has bine this wick but as I [damaged] occasion at present for it, I have not had [damaged] curi[o]sity of looking at it.

⁸⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁸¹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁸² William Conolly (1706–54), who had inherited substantial estates from his uncle William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁸³ *Lege* wait.

⁸⁴ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁸⁵ Unidentified. In the absence of a formal postal system, people were reliant on trusted friends to transport items to and from England.

⁸⁶ This refers to Jane Bonnell's extended dispute with her Conyngham nephews concerning the Donegal estate.

⁸⁷ *Recte* who.

⁸⁸ It is unclear who Katherine is referring to here. It may be a son of Benjamin Burton (d. 1728) of Dublin and Co. Carlow, brother of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), who was working in London.

⁸⁹ *Recte* who.

⁹⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁹¹ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

Brother Pearson⁹² is hear, he talks of so[o]ne goeing hom[e] and takeing Nancy,⁹³ and my cousin Curry⁹⁴ and her famally of going before May. When they all l[e]ave I shall be very lonely, for my cousin Curry spends most of her time with me, or the days she cannot come hear, she sends some of her daughters hear.

I hear they expect a packet this evening soe I will not seall this till I see if they come or any letters from you, but there comeing in is not cartain. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] you sayd nothing of your [damaged] which I want to know.

NLI, MS 41,578/5

73. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 18 APRIL 1730

I had my dear sisters of the 4th by the last packets when 3 came in together. If I be a good lawyer, you steat⁹⁵ the case of the tow⁹⁶ 5000 pound⁹⁷ right, and I wish my nephew Conolly⁹⁸ wo[ul]d think soe, but young men and old women sildom thinks the same way. I have sent you 2 bottells of esqubath by some of Lord Cartrits⁹⁹ p[e]lopell which will send it safe to you.

I am in the utmost distress for some good jacklet, mine being allmost out. If you can hear of any body comeing that wo[ul]d bring a duson¹⁰⁰ or but half a duson po[un]d [of it], it wo[ul]d be of great sarvices, for as I continue to rise before 6 I have these meny years taken a dish then, for I do not take my tea till about ten. I shall writ[e] to Mr Madocks¹⁰¹ that if he comes over so[o]ne to call on you for it. The last [chocolate] I had was from Holland and held a 100[weight] I sent for more of the same 3 months agoe but hear not of it.

My cousin Curry¹⁰² and her famally goes home very so[o]ne which will be a great loss to me. I shall goe to Castelltown the day my Lord L[ieutenant]¹⁰³ goes, for I find I cannot stand the change of a new government whear in I used to be soe much and

⁹² Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

⁹³ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36), daughter of Thomas (1678–1736) and Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁹⁴ Probably Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie), daughter of William Leslie (1660–98) and Mary Echlin of Ardquin who married Col John Corry (1667–1726) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh in 1701/02. Her children, who feature in Katherine's later letters, were Martha (Matty) (1704/05–c. 1764); Sarah (Sally) (1709–79); Mary (Molly) (1710–74); Leslie (1712–40/41); Elizabeth (Betty) (1715–91); William (died young), and John (died young).

⁹⁵ *Lege* state.

⁹⁶ *Lege* two.

⁹⁷ Referring to William Conolly's bequest to Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737): see letter no. 68.

⁹⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁹⁹ John Carteret (1690–1763), lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1724–1730: *ODNB*; *DIB*.

¹⁰⁰ *Lege* dozen.

¹⁰¹ Unidentified.

¹⁰² Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 72, note 94.

¹⁰³ Lord Carteret.

soe neerly consarned, but shall not stay above 2 or 3 days and will only stay hear till cousin Curry l[e]aves this, which will be about the latter end of this month. Sister Jones¹⁰⁴ is well, I heard leatly from her. Brother Pearson¹⁰⁵ and Mrs Currys famally gives you their sarvices. Doctor Buscoe, bishop of Limbrick¹⁰⁶ will soon see you; he has taken l[e]ave of me.

I believe Harry is abo[u]t mattremony.¹⁰⁷ She will be a great fortune, but he thinks it not enough beca[u]se there is another twist a greater. And when this was brought to some bearing he seems cooll, when its impossiball he sho[ul]d accomplish the other. But all my plauge is to settell my Welch esteat¹⁰⁸ on him which I never will doe for I shall have littell elas to l[e]ave among my fri[e]nds if I do not live 3 or 4 years, and this he seems to take ill, but I am very [e]asey about that matter.

I am hurreyd with p[e]opell soe can add noe more, but I inclose 2 of Mr Cloterbucks¹⁰⁹ franks in this [so] that when he gets to London you may send them back dertected to me, but your nixt to me inclose to Mr Tickell,¹¹⁰ secterary to the Lords Justices at the Castell, Dublin.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/5

74. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 APRIL 1730

3 packets came in senas I h[e]ard from my dear sister. Senas I wrot[e] last I was 3 days at Castelltown and had not come back but to stay hear while my cousin Curry¹¹¹ is hear. She l[e]aves this nixt wick and then I shall goe to Castelltown for some time. In May I shall [go] to Barmore¹¹² for a fortnight. My brother left this last wick and [was] soe kind to l[e]ave Nancy with me till I take her home, which I take very kindly.¹¹³

Pray send me when you next with a[n] op[p]ertunity a black ch[a]ine for my wa[t]ch hook and [?]. I have now a coarse black le[a]ther won which is all I co[ul]d get hear. They tell me I can have neet¹¹⁴ steell wans, sangriend¹¹⁵ or vellvit,¹¹⁶ wans [*sic*] made as the le[a]ther wan I have is made. But some kind or other I most desire you to get for me. I'll send money for it and the jacklet when I have an op[p]ertunity, or will

¹⁰⁴ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

¹⁰⁵ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹⁰⁶ William Burscough (d. 1755) was consecrated bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe on 20 June 1725: *NHI*, ix, 420.

¹⁰⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) did not marry until 1744.

¹⁰⁸ See letter no. 59.

¹⁰⁹ Thomas Clutterbuck (1707–92): see letter no. 37, note 412.

¹¹⁰ Thomas Tickell (1685–1740), secretary to the lords justices of Ireland, 1724–40: see letter no. 30, note 312.

¹¹¹ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 72, note 94.

¹¹² Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the Pearson country residence.

¹¹³ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) and his daughter Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36): see letter no. 72.

¹¹⁴ *Lege* neat.

¹¹⁵ *Lege* shagreened. Shagreen is a kind of untanned leather, usually dyed green, with a rough granulated surface. In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the term 'shagreen' began to be applied to leather made from sharkskin or the skin of a ray fish.

¹¹⁶ *Lege* velvet.

writ[e] to Mr Gould,¹¹⁷ tho[ugh] he has not yet any mon[e]y of mine in his hands, but will in June or July.

I had a [letter?] days ago about the remender¹¹⁸ of my ness Conynghams legacy¹¹⁹ which her worthless husband has sold to won Lindsey, a woolling draper hear. But as we have given an apperances to answer them should the law gives a year for the payment of all legeseys, but the exe[cut]o[rs] thought best, haveing mon[e]y to pay all of the small legeceys which is done. Soe you see hear that [that] unhap[p]y man involves him self and every body elas in tr[o]ubles. I wo[ul]d fean have Hary¹²⁰ be gardaune¹²¹ to his nephew, and the int[e]rest of the 1000 pound sho[ul]d be dewly payd for the child's use.¹²² But I beli[e]ve he will not, for it cannot be well done with out the fathers consent which I beli[e]ve he will not give.

I have such a p[ai]ne in my hand I can hardly hold the pen. When you writ[e] to my ness Conyngham, pray excuse my not answering her last obliging letter but as I have often meny letters [that I] most writ[e], which all ways puts me to pain,¹²³ I do [it] when I can.

I h[e]ard yesterday from Frank,¹²⁴ he thinks his wife¹²⁵ is by this time with you which I shall be glad to hear. I am dear, dear, sister, affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Mr Burton writ[e]s me that he has ord[e]red wan Mr Bart[hologemew] Burton¹²⁶ to call on you for his papers. I hope he has got them.

NLI, MS 41,578/5

75. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 15 MAY 1730

I have no letter to answer of my dear sisters but wo[ul]d not omit writing wanst a wick as I have promised. I must goe this evening to Dublin, both against my intention and desire, I not intending to have gone till towards August, but our unhap[p]y nephew¹²⁷

¹¹⁷ Probably Albert Gould of the firm of Gould & Nesbit, London, and of Woodhall, Co. Donegal: see letter no. 69, note 21.

¹¹⁸ *Lege* remainder.

¹¹⁹ This refers to silver plate, the ownership of which was in dispute between Constance Middleton (1698–1767) and her estranged husband Williams Conyngham (1698–1738): see letters nos 54 and 56.

¹²⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹²¹ *Lege* guardian.

¹²² William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37), son of Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) and Williams Conyngham (1698–1738). In light of Williams Conyngham's failing health and lifestyle the family were trying to put in place arrangements for the guardianship of the child who stood to inherit the Conyngham estates from his father. William Conolly (1662–1729) had bequeathed his grand-nephew William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham £1000 in his will. The family wished Billy's mother Constance to have control of this money for the use of her son.

¹²³ *Lege* pain.

¹²⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹²⁵ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737). Mary was returning to Ireland from France.

¹²⁶ Possibly Benjamin Burton, the son of Grace (*née* Stratford) (d. 1721) and Benjamin Burton (d. 1728) of Dublin and Co. Carlow: see letters nos 69 and 70, note 12.

¹²⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

that has sold the remender¹²⁸ of his wife's¹²⁹ legecy to wan Lindsay,¹³⁰ [who] has put in a bill against the exe[cut]o[r]s which we most emedately¹³¹ answ[e]r, and I find and fear the exe[cut]o[r]s will oblige me to pay the 333 pound I got sent my unfortunate[er] ness Conyngham. I allways feard it wo[ul]d turn soe, but senas the poor unhap[py] woman has got it, I am content if I doe. But by the falling of rents and takeing up some leassis, I shall be neer a [£]1000 a year worse this year then I thought I sho[ul]d, but its my one unluckyness and not the dear man's dying that left it me, for its what co[ul]d not not [*sic*] be g[u]arded against nor foreseen.¹³²

I hear my brother Pearson¹³³ came yesterday to my house in Dublin¹³⁴ soe I shall see him tonight and [I] writ[e]s this hear for fear I sho[ul]d not get it done there. [It will be taken] by cousin Gorge Leslie¹³⁵ that is gone to London.

I sent you 20 g[u]ineys to pay for what jacklet you can send me and some other littell things I wrot[e] for, and the remender I pray you except¹³⁶ off. If my 100 w[e]ight I sent for [arrives?], I sho[ul]d not desire above a quarter of a 100 from London, but I wo[ul]d have it parfumed, for soe I like it to mix with the plane.

I h[e]ard yesterday from sister Jones,¹³⁷ she is well. If anything hap[p]ans when I goe to Dublin I'll writ[e] it before I seall this. I am my dear sister with great truth, your ever affectionate sister and sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Is your wine yet arrived?¹³⁸

NLI, MS 41,578/5

76. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 NOVEMBER 1730

I had tow¹³⁹ letters from [you] my dear sister by 6 packets that came in last Sunday, the wan of the 27[th] of October, the other the 3[rd], with Mrs Bucklys which I imeditly¹⁴⁰ sent her.

Came hear last Friday, the forst time I have seen Dublin sencs¹⁴¹ the 2[n]d day of May, and wo[ul]d rather have stay[e]d all winter [in Castletown] than come in to a crowed¹⁴² again, but [to] bissness and to pl[e]ase others more then myself.

¹²⁸ *Lege* remainder.

¹²⁹ Constance Middleton (1698–1767).

¹³⁰ See letter no. 67.

¹³¹ *Lege* immediately.

¹³² Though William Conolly (1662–1729) left Katherine a wealthy and independent widow, she was careful not to appear too generous when dispensing her largesse.

¹³³ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹³⁴ Her Dublin townhouse on Capel Street: see letter no. 1.

¹³⁵ Unidentified.

¹³⁶ *Lege* accept.

¹³⁷ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

¹³⁸ Katherine often ordered and paid for wine to be sent to her sister Jane in London. She frequently arranged this through her nephew Ralph Sampson (1693–1763), the Dublin merchant: see letter no. 7, note 56.

¹³⁹ *Lege* two.

¹⁴⁰ *Lege* immediately.

¹⁴¹ *Lege* since.

¹⁴² *Lege* crowd.

The bill¹⁴³ will not come on this term, for brother Person and Docter Trotter¹⁴⁴ that is consarned for my nephew Conolly¹⁴⁵ has not given in there answers. I am sure I have given in my answer, as has all the other exec[ut]o[r]s answers, for I wo[ul]d gr[i]eve if it lay at my door.

I have got a most sevear cold, can nather¹⁴⁶ see, sp[e]ake nor hear, sleep nor [?]. How long it will be soe I cannot tell but I hope [for] the best. I think Molly¹⁴⁷ grows a littell better. Frank¹⁴⁸ and Molly gives you there sarvices, they will writ[e] nixt post. I shall writ[e] noe more but to as[s]ure my dear sister that I am and allways will be, with great truth, your ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/5

77. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 JANUARY 1730/[31]

I had my dear sisters of the 16th which was very wellcome to me, for it all ways gives me ple[a]sure to hear from you, but when it gives me [an] account [of] your ill heath, I hope your nixt will tell me you ear better. You compla[i]n of my not writing oftener; indeed I writ[e] as often as I can, but when I intend it something or other comes ac[c]ros[s] me and hinders me. I writ[e] this with 4 or 5 p[e]opell visiting me, but as they tell me a packet is to goe off so[o]ne.

All your fri[e]nds hear ear tollerably well. I really think Molly B[urton]¹⁴⁹ better than she was when she came hear. By the nixt I'll send you a receat¹⁵⁰ for your shortness of bre[a]th. I have done meny sarvis¹⁵¹ by it [ad] I wish it may have [the] same effect on you.

I enclose this to Mr Gould¹⁵² for I have not time to get a frank for you. I shall send my sarv[an]t Ffiney¹⁵³ to London nixt wick, he shall weat on you. I send him on some bissness which he shall acquent¹⁵⁴ you off. You may send my childs picter¹⁵⁵ by him.

I can add no more but to as[s]ure my dear sister, I am sencerly yours, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/6

¹⁴³ Probate of the will of William Conolly (1662–1729), 18 October 1729: NAI, T92.

¹⁴⁴ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736), and Thomas Trotter, a commissioner of appeal in the revenue who had been closely associated politically and personally with William Conolly (1662–1729) since 1713: Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*, p. 147.

¹⁴⁵ William Conolly (1706–54).

¹⁴⁶ *Lege* neither.

¹⁴⁷ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

¹⁴⁸ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁴⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

¹⁵⁰ *Lege* receipt, remedy.

¹⁵¹ *Lege* service.

¹⁵² The firm of Gould & Nesbit, London.

¹⁵³ The Finey family of Celbridge, Co. Kildare, were old tenants and trusted servants of William (1662–1729) and Katherine Conolly (1662–1752). Katherine was bereft when her servant 'Finey' died in Oct. 1743: see Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 20 Nov. (1731) (NLI, MS 41,577/4); Mary Jones, to Jane Bonnell, 12 Oct. 1743 (NLI, MS 41,577/2).

¹⁵⁴ *Lege* acquaint.

¹⁵⁵ *Lege* picture. Possibly referring to a painting commissioned by Katherine Conolly of her ward Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

78. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 APRIL 1731

I had my dear sisters of the 30[th] of March 3 days agoe, but then expecting that Mr Burton¹⁵⁶ and famally wo[ul]d have bine gone, hindred my writing till I co[ul]d tell you soe. Senas which Molly¹⁵⁷ is fallan very ill which has delayed them. [She] still [has] a cold and [a] faverish disorder, a vallant¹⁵⁸ cough and burning hot with great heed acks.¹⁵⁹ No sleep till Satterday night. She is we think a good deall better and hopes the worst is over. When she gets stren[g]th they intend going home.

As to your being une[a]sey at a cartan bodys¹⁶⁰ takeing shear¹⁶¹ of the devartons¹⁶² thats a goeing, I think there is little in it. She has good health and sp[i]rits, has bine for meny years of her life a close pris[o]ner to a most une[a]sey husbands humers. She now thinks she has libirty [of] being her own mistres[s]. What made me mention it to you was beca[us]e the whole town has it that I was at those plaasis,¹⁶³ and I thought senas it was sayd soe hear, it might be as well reported in your side and beli[e]ved.

I will not protesst your bill when its for plays or masquarad[e]s. As to the ch[a]ine for Miss Pearson,¹⁶⁴ we ear in no heart for it but I know a new wan wo[ul]d be more then I can spear,¹⁶⁵ but you may chance get wan as you did Mrs Burtons.¹⁶⁶

Doe you hear what life Hary¹⁶⁷ leads? Did you win or lose your wager? I am sor[r]y you have left off the assis milk¹⁶⁸ e[i]ther evening or morning till May is advanced. We have hear the coldest we[a]ther senas the 20[th] of March I have knowon, much more soe then the winters frost.

My dear child¹⁶⁹ is and has bine ill with sore eyes neer a month. Some times better then ill again, very bad senas the 4[th] of this month. She is now under the car of Docter Worth.¹⁷⁰ He doth not come abroad but she goes to him. I think them better to day.

¹⁵⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁵⁷ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁵⁸ *Lege* violent.

¹⁵⁹ *Lege* headaches.

¹⁶⁰ In case their letters were opened and conscious of the dangers of ‘social gossip’, Katherine here refers obliquely to their niece Constance (1698–1767), who was estranged from her husband Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁶¹ *Lege* share.

¹⁶² *Lege* diversions, entertainments.

¹⁶³ *Lege* places.

¹⁶⁴ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

¹⁶⁵ *Lege* spare.

¹⁶⁶ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁶⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁶⁸ Asses milk, consisting of hartshorn shavings and water, milk, wine, rum or brandy, was considered strengthening for children and invalids and was particularly recommended to be taken after long fevers: Hugh Smith, *The family physician: being a collection of useful family remedies, together with plain and full directions for administering them, and properly nursing the sick, where the advice of a physician is difficult to be procured* (London, [1772]), p. 22.

¹⁶⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

¹⁷⁰ Dr Edward Worth (c. 1678–1733) was an Irish politician, physician and book collector. He was a tenant of William Conolly (1662–1729) at Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin and a kinsman of Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733), Jane Bonnell’s friend and correspondent. Worth practised as a doctor in Dublin and between 1715 and 1727 he sat in the Irish House of Commons for New Ross. He was elected a fellow of the College of Physicians and was twice elected president, an honour he declined. Worth was a chronic invalid and actively pursued his hobby as a bibliophile: *Irish Medical Journal*, 80: 5 (May 1987), p. 132; *HIP; DIB*.

My brother Person¹⁷¹ has bine very ill [and] is now prity well. He came hear last Wedensday and has been prity e[a]sey ever senas, but was for a fortnight extramly ill at home. He and Nancy¹⁷² gives you there sarvics.

Inclosed is a bill to defrey the cost of the assis milk.¹⁷³ I have not as yet wrot[e] to Mr Gould¹⁷⁴ about it nor has not time, soe doe not send to them till affter a nother packet comes in. Pray excuse me to our unhap[p]y ness C[onyngham]. Has Hary¹⁷⁵ done any thing for her? He may, and ought, and can, tho[ugh] nobody makes a poorer mouth then he doth offten to me, but to no purposs, but I never mind it.

I have wrot[e] by this packet to Mr Gould soe you may send for this [quarter's allowance] when you plaas¹⁷⁶ and if you wo[ul]d promise me upon your word that you wo[ul]d have wan warm comfortable bit a meat every day for yourself, I wo[ul]d and doe promise you while I live to pay you a 100 pound a year, e[i]ther quarterly or half yearly as you like best, to commences from nixt May, but if its for plays or those gayety,¹⁷⁷ I have done with you. But till then you may depend on it.

I sho[ul]d be glad you wo[ul]d send me my account of what you lay[e]d out for me out of the last bill I sent you by Finey,¹⁷⁸ and if you wo[ul]d send me a pint of the best hon[e]y watter¹⁷⁹ that you can get in London you wo[ul]d much oblige me. A woman at Millbank¹⁸⁰ used to have the only right sort. Parhaps it wo[ul]d come better in half pints or quarter pint bottells.

I saw a letter last packet from poor ness C[onyngham]. She says she is a goeing into the co[un]trey to her sister [?].¹⁸¹ I wish I co[ul]d send her ten g[u]ineys. I think its too littell but I can doe but littell, soe if you think that wo[ul]d be of sarvices to her I wish you wo[ul]d give it [to] her and I'll send it [to] you by the forst opertunaty in mon[e]y, for I have littell or non[e] in Mr Goulds¹⁸² hands nor will not till September nixt.

Mrs Burton¹⁸³ continues still ill. She is soe humersome and costive she most make every body un[e]asey. I beli[e]ve the thoughts of l[e]aveing Dublin wan of her greatest eallments.¹⁸⁴ She has taken it in her heed that she is 5 or 6 days with child,

¹⁷¹ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹⁷² Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

¹⁷³ *Lege* asses.

¹⁷⁴ The firm of Gould & Nesbit, London.

¹⁷⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁷⁶ *Lege* please.

¹⁷⁷ *Lege* gaieties.

¹⁷⁸ Her trusted servant: see letter no. 77.

¹⁷⁹ The use of honey in various combinations was popular as a therapeutic cure.

¹⁸⁰ Millbank by the River Thames is located east of Pimlico and south of Westminster, London. The area derives its name from a mill house belonging to nearby Westminster Abbey.

¹⁸¹ Constance Middleton had five sisters: name unknown (b. 1696), Mary (1697–1766), Elizabeth (b. 1702), Diana (b. c. 1703), and Anne (1706–72). It is unclear which sister she is referring to here but it is probably Mary: William Duncombe Pink, *Notes on the Middleton family of Denbighshire & London, etc.* (Chester, 1891).

¹⁸² The firm of Gould & Nesbit, London.

¹⁸³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁸⁴ *Lege* ailments. The Burton family were proposing a return to their estate at Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

haveing missed [for] so long, and is most reducullas in talking of it, for that is the way she has bine ever senas she came over. Allways a wick or ten days with [?] and was actually soe last Monday, but not soe much as usell.

This letter was to have gone last Sunday but I had not finished it. I am tyerd and soe ear you by this time, soe [I] shall conclude in as[s]uring my dear sister I am sincer[e]ly your, K: C:

[On reverse]

Apr[i]ll 15

Mrs Conolly, Ap[ri]l 15 1731, about a hundred a year.

NLI, MS 41,578/6

79. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN TO JANE BONNELL, 25 MAY 1731

Dear sister,

I had yours of the 15[th] which came safe hear and upon my word I have burnt it according to your desire. I shall not answer the perticklers, for what you say and what I co[ul]d say on the conduct of some p[e]opell wo[ul]d be what might give tr[o]uble but no ple[a]sure. All I shall say is the mothers¹⁸⁵ conduct to apperanc[es] is much better. As to Hary,¹⁸⁶ I hope he will grow wise and then what he has lost will be of advantige to him. The night before I left Dublin, his wrached¹⁸⁷ brother¹⁸⁸ came to town. Had I not resolved on comeing out of town that day, I had done it on that account. But I shall goe this day, not out of chouse¹⁸⁹ but nessesity, for I find he is come to continue his mischifes. I shall not finish this letter till affter I get there.¹⁹⁰

Now I most tell my dear sister that last year I made my will in which I left you 800 po[u]nds, but now I have made a codisell to my will and did intend to have left you the sume of six hundred po[u]nds. But as I find by consulting la[w]yers that nather of these sumes now mentioned co[ul]d bye¹⁹¹ of use or sarvis to you in case you deyed before me, beca[us]e you co[ul]d not beque[a]th that which you ear not in possisson¹⁹² of, I have drawn and parficted a bond payable to you affter my death for the six hund[red] pound and has allt[e]red my codassell¹⁹³ and mentioned you in it. Soe that by the will you may dispose of that as you think proper, and by transfer[r]ing the bond you may clire¹⁹⁴ a de[b]t or as you think most proper, for it will be as good mon[e]y as any in Ierland affter my death. And this way I have taken in hopes it will make you [e]asey in your mind that you have a visiball way to clire soe much of your

¹⁸⁵ Referring to their niece Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767): see letter no. 78.

¹⁸⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁸⁷ *Lege* wretched.

¹⁸⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁸⁹ *Lege* choice.

¹⁹⁰ Her country residence, Castletown, Co. Kildare.

¹⁹¹ *Lege* be.

¹⁹² *Lege* possession.

¹⁹³ *Lege* codicil.

¹⁹⁴ *Lege* clear.

t[ro]ublesome deets.¹⁹⁵ If I live till nixt year to allter my will I will, if you like it better [I will] allter what I have left in my will to you in the same manner I have done this that was wanst in my codessall. The bond shall be left in good Mrs Bucklys¹⁹⁶ hands to be sent [to] you by some safe hand before I go [on] my gant,¹⁹⁷ which I hope to get to Beamore¹⁹⁸ nixt wick.

Now you may justly wonder how I came [to be] so rich as to be able to make a codassall so so[o]ne affter my will. For on my word I have not in my one¹⁹⁹ nor [my] bankers hands nor any whear elas 20 pound, and my codasall is [for] about [£]3000, for I spend at a most extravagant reat²⁰⁰ and nather can nor will allter it. But this I'll tell you the seacrot;²⁰¹ I have made a barg[a]ine with my nephew Conolly²⁰² for a manner²⁰³ that leys in the lower part of the country of Meath seppret from every thing e[i]ther he or I has, and as I beli[e]ve he most²⁰⁴ sell, I shal[l] advise he parts with that. I had it returned to me for [£]500 a year but it will never get for it again, and as I had no mind in my days to lessen what will be his, I have sold my life to him for 1500 pound payable at my death with out int[e]rest, for which I co[ul]d have had above [£]2000 on the same tearms, and I have not nor shall not rece[i]ve wan pen[n]y of my May rents these 3 or 4 months. Soe now the seacret is out. Frank owes me [£]500 [and] Hary²⁰⁵ [£]224, soe now you have a true account of my fortune.

As to what you aske about R[alph] S[ampson's]²⁰⁶ mon[e]y, I thought I told you many [*sic*] I thought I told you long a goe how that stood – Roger²⁰⁷ is to pay it. For affter my sister had given her bond, Ra[lph] S[ampson] did not think that suffisant²⁰⁸ and he got Roger to give him his bond as co[u]nter security for it, which my sister did not know till some months after Mr Jones death. Soe she is e[a]sey as to that. Indeed she wo[ul]d be offten stretned²⁰⁹ but for litle [amounts] I give her in 3, 4 or

¹⁹⁵ *Lege* debts. Jane Bonnell was not as financially secure as her sister Katherine. It is surprising that despite other large bequests William Conolly (1662–1729) in his will bequeathed Jane only £200. Allied with her losses from the South Sea Bubble she was constantly operating in debt, a situation Katherine was conscious of and which she hoped to relieve in her will.

¹⁹⁶ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

¹⁹⁷ *Lege* jaunt.

¹⁹⁸ Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the Pearson residence.

¹⁹⁹ *Lege* own.

²⁰⁰ *Lege* rate.

²⁰¹ *Lege* secret.

²⁰² William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁰³ *Lege* manor. This may refer to the sale of Rodenstown, Co. Meath, William Conolly's country residence prior to his purchase of the Castletown estate.

²⁰⁴ *Lege* must.

²⁰⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁰⁶ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 7, note 56.

²⁰⁷ Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Katherine's sister Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765). This refers to a debt incurred between Ralph Sampson and the Jones family following the death of Richard Jones (1662–1729): see letter no. 68.

²⁰⁸ *Lege* sufficient.

²⁰⁹ *Lege* straitened.

5 po[u]nds.²¹⁰ And for fear she sho[ul]d want, I have given her a bill of ten po[u]nds to buy her a sum[m]ers shuts²¹¹ of close.²¹²

Dublin 26[th] of May

I came hear last night and has nothing to add to my former part but I have seen Mrs Buckly²¹³ and has given her the bond I have mentioned in this letter, which I hope will be both a satisfaction and an anvantige²¹⁴ to you which I wish it may. Senas I begone [from] this part, Mrs B[uckeley] has bine so wise as to begine some fine speech in favour of her grassless brother²¹⁵ which has put me in such a pattion²¹⁶ and made me so sick I can hardly hold the pen. I cal[le]d her an ungreatfull wrach²¹⁷ that she sho[ul]d pretend to sp[e]ake in favour of any parson that durst attempt to villifey or blacken the charracter of her dear unkell.²¹⁸ I can say no more but am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/6

80. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 AUGUST 1731

I had my dear sisters of A[u]g[us]t 12[th] from the co[u]ntery which I had by the last packets. I hope your being in the co[u]ntery will be of sarvis to you. You will be time enough in town for Mr Madox,²¹⁹ for when I thought he had bine near London he came hear last Sunday. For he had bine gone a month before, but contrary winds hind[e]red, but as the winds seemed fear²²⁰ Monday and Tu[e]sday I sopose he is gone.

I think in some of my former letters I told you that the silk is most extr[e]amly well licked²²¹ by all that has seen it and indeed no body can doe other way for its very han[d]some, and Nancy²²² [is] charmed with it. And I think the chire²²³ mighty han[d]some and so has those that has seen it, but Nancy not being in town has not

²¹⁰ These amounts stand in stark contrast to the more substantial amounts of money Katherine gave to her other sister Jane Bonnell and the provision she recently made for Jane in her will: see letter no. 79.

²¹¹ *Lege* suit.

²¹² *Lege* clothes.

²¹³ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

²¹⁴ *Lege* advantage.

²¹⁵ *Lege* graceless. Unidentified, but perhaps her son-in-law James Worth (b. 1682), the son of William Worth (1646–1721) and his second wife, Mabella Tynte (d. 1686). He assumed the surname Tynte in 1692 when he became the heir of his uncle Henry Tynte of Ballycrenane, Co. Cork. He married Hesther Bulkeley, daughter of John Bulkeley and his wife Jane (also known as Elizabeth Whitfield), of Old Bawn, Co. Dublin on 15 April 1702.

²¹⁶ *Lege* passion/anger.

²¹⁷ *Lege* wretch.

²¹⁸ Referring to Katherine's late husband, William Conolly (1662–1729), whose character and good name she vehemently protected for the rest of her life.

²¹⁹ Unidentified.

²²⁰ *Lege* fair.

²²¹ *Lege* liked.

²²² Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

²²³ The mourning chair Katherine had ordered from London: see letters nos 66 and 80.

seen it. Both Nancy and I wrot[e] to you that she wo[ul]d not have any more rich silk bought for her at this time, for besid[e]s the silk you sent over, she has a very rich shift trim[[m]ed.

I thought to have sent over by Mr Madox some of dear Mr Conollys heir for a ring,²²⁴ but I can send it at any time in a letter. But I wo[ul]d consult with you and wo[ul]d have you consult some of your fri[e]nds how I sho[ul]d set it. I think a good transparant di[a]mond over it, 2 di[a]monds I mean. Brill[i]ants in either side with a h[e]art on e[a]che side of a deathsheed²²⁵ with this motto: ‘We part no more for this unites us’ or any any thing you think proper. Let me have your opounon²²⁶ about it and then I’ll send the hair, for I expect to have mon[e]y in Mr Goulds hands.

Last Sunday your nephew Hary C[onyng]ham²²⁷ came hear and dined. I did not know he was in Dublin till I saw him. Mrs Cogell and Miss²²⁸ is hear, the docter²²⁹ went to Dublin yesterday but comes back on Satherday. They have bine hear a fortnight and ear much better senas they came.

My dear littell girill²³⁰ is quite recover[e]d [from] her disorder. I was appreheansive it was the small pox but it proved a rash. She is thin and wack²³¹ still. Sister Jones is hear and all her family, I mean her boy, her mead, and man.²³² I can add no more than [that] all your fri[e]nds hear sends thire sarviscs. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/6

81. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 30 SEPTEMBER 1731

I had my dear sisters of the 13[th] from the co[u]ntery about [?] days agoe. I had wrot[e] to you but a littell before that which made me delay it this wick. I am now under new tr[o]uble for my littell girill.²³³ About a wick agoe I obsarved a littell speck on her eye that was sore. All last spring and till Jully senas, which it has bine as well as any childs ey[e]s in the world. The speck is no big[g]er then the speck I have made on the top [of this letter]. Its not on the sight²³⁴ but neer it. Her eyes is

²²⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729). *Lege* hair. Mourning rings containing hair of the deceased person were popular items throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

²²⁵ A skull and crossbones.

²²⁶ *Lege* opinion.

²²⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyng]ham (1707–81).

²²⁸ Anne Pearson, sister of Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth and Thomas Street, Dublin, married James Coghill (d. 1734), son of Sir John Coghill (d. 1699) and Hester Cramer.

²²⁹ Dr Marmaduke Coghill (1673–1738), MP for Dublin University, judge of the Prerogative Court and chancellor of the exchequer was the elder of two sons of Sir John Coghill, Co. Dublin, formerly of Coghill Hall, Yorkshire, England, and Hester (*née* Cramer). He was politically close to William Conolly (1662–1729) from 1715, and on Conolly’s death he succeeded him as a commissioner of the revenue: *DIB*; David Hayton (ed.), *Letters of Marmaduke Coghill* (IMC, Dublin, 2005).

²³⁰ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

²³¹ *Lege* weak.

²³² Mary Jones (*née* Conyng]ham) (1675–1765), her son Roger Jones (d. 1747), her maid, and manservant.

²³³ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

²³⁴ *Lege* pupil.

parfictly well, not in the least gomey²³⁵ in the morning, and she as well as she ever was in her life, for she doth nothing from 7 a clock in the morning till 8 at night but play and gallop about, for I will not let her e[i]ther look at her book or work which she is fond off, but her cha[i]nstich is a great work. I have sent to docter Worth²³⁶ but has not yet h[e]ard from him. If he desires I sho[ul]d goe to town I will emedatly,²³⁷ tho[ugh] I wo[ul]d rather stay hear for some time longer, for this is my mallanc[h]olly time of year – the 27[th of October] your dear brother was taken ill.²³⁸

I can not tell how the podasway²³⁹ will wear haveing not yet tryed it. I am glad you have got the threed²⁴⁰ and likes it, it was all I do [*sic*] [could] spear,²⁴¹ and that the mon[e]y came in time to you.²⁴² I shall [be] very pun[c]tuall in sending it to you. Let me know if jacklet be fallan in the priss²⁴³ for I am like to be disap[p]o[i]nted in a 100 w[e]ight I sent for to Holland.

Sister Jones²⁴⁴ is still hear and will stay as long as I doe. I gave her a littell mon[e]y the other day to buy her a shut of closs.²⁴⁵ She says that with what she has saved by her not being in town these 2 months will make her rich for the winter. Her son²⁴⁶ has bine twist hear within this fortnight.

As to the ring,²⁴⁷ I shall set no prise for I am content you lay out from 20 to 30 po[un]d or more if nesecery, soe let it be good and well done. My fingers is big and swells often. I have made a ring on a piss of paper that will doe, the h[a]ire²⁴⁸ is saved in the back of this. I need not bid you be car[e]full of it and to [en]sure its the same [hair used], for I know wan that opon new set[e]ing a ring they wear send[ing] off, [they] got no heir but a bit of silk of the [same] coller²⁴⁹ (this is the truth and [it] frightens me), soe I know you will take great care of this. I beli[e]ve I shall hardly wear it much beca[u]se of the swellings in my fingers but I most have it.

I shall add no more but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] Did you ever see Mrs Carter²⁵⁰ senas she went over and what doth she say? She is a bad woman I am sure. Molly²⁵¹ is prity well she writ[e]s.

NLI, MS 41,578/6

²³⁵ *Lege* gummy.

²³⁶ Dr Edward Worth (1678–1733): see letter no. 78, note 170.

²³⁷ *Lege* immediately.

²³⁸ Katherine is recalling the illness and death of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729).

²³⁹ *Lege* paduasoy, a heavy, rich corded or embossed silk fabric popular in the eighteenth century.

²⁴⁰ *Lege* thread.

²⁴¹ *Lege* spare.

²⁴² See letter no. 78.

²⁴³ *Lege* price.

²⁴⁴ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

²⁴⁵ *Lege* suit of clothes.

²⁴⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

²⁴⁷ Katherine had previously discussed the purchase of a mourning ring in memory of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729): see letter no. 80.

²⁴⁸ *Lege* hair. Referring to a lock of William Conolly's hair to be incorporated into the frame of the ring.

²⁴⁹ *Lege* colour.

²⁵⁰ Unidentified.

²⁵¹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

82. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, LONDON, 25 OCTOBER 1731

Tho[ugh] I wrot[e] to my dear sister last Satterday I can not for bear telling you that 3 packets is come in senas and not a line from you. Mrs Buckley²⁵² and all your fri[e]nds mak[e]s the same compla[i]nt. Sure if you wear ill you wo[ul]d make some body say soe, but its strang[e] and I cannot take it well, soe let what ever be the matter, this is the last I shall writ[e] till I hear from you.

I wrot[e] some time agoe to you to let me know if jackalet was fallan [in price] but wither it be or not you most get me a quarter of a 100 [weight] sent as so[o]n as you can, for I am dis[s]ap[p]ointed of what I expected from Hollond and mine is all most out. Send it to Chester directed to Mr Knnas²⁵³ for me. Send me wan of the pritest²⁵⁴ black and whit[e] fans or a whit[e] le[a]ther fan as so[o]ne as you can, I'll pay honestly.

I have sent you 12 yards of cloth for shifts or wa[i]s[t]co[a]ts and 3 yards of fine for slives.²⁵⁵ I had no more cloth by me and at present it [?]. I am my dear unkind sisters most affectionate, Ka: Conelly

NLI, MS 41,578/6

83. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 NOVEMBER 1731

I had my dear sisters of the 23[rd] of Oct[o]b[e]r by the last packets which was more wellcome to me and more of your fri[e]nds than any letter I ever had from you. For affter six wicks sillences I was at a loss what to think was the matter. I wrot[e] to you last wick by Sandy Nisbet²⁵⁶ and sent you a littell cloth I had by me. I told Mrs Buckley what you desired, she was glad to hear you wear alive but never thought that you and she wo[ul]d be such strangers by letters.²⁵⁷

Last Satherday and Monday, being both kept hear for the bearth day,²⁵⁸ was sollomnised hear in a grander manner than ever was known hear at the Castell. Our Lord Li[e]ut[enant]²⁵⁹ did by fare out doe all that ever was before him and they say it was impossible anything co[ul]d be grander – meat and room being provided for 600 p[e]opell – but there was above a 1000, which alt[e]red the reguleraty, and the ladys made the richest closs²⁶⁰ ever was seen hear. But in the mean²⁶¹ the shopkeepers has the worst of it, for of meny thousand po[u]nds layd out, very few hundreds payd. Now I give you this long account to interduss²⁶² your fancy, for tho[ugh] there was some

²⁵² Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

²⁵³ Unidentified.

²⁵⁴ *Lege* prettiest.

²⁵⁵ *Lege* sleeves.

²⁵⁶ Alexander Nesbitt, a member of the Woodhall, Co. Donegal family.

²⁵⁷ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733): see NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,579/4–5, for the correspondence of Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

²⁵⁸ *Lege* birthday. She is referring to the celebrations in Dublin Castle for King George II's birthday.

²⁵⁹ Lionel Cranfield Sackville (1688–1765), 1st duke of Dorset was lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1731–7, 1751–5: *DIB*.

²⁶⁰ *Lege* clothes.

²⁶¹ *Lege* main.

²⁶² *Lege* introduce.

hundred of richer close yet all aggreed that Miss Pearsons²⁶³ was both the han[d]samest and gentellest.²⁶⁴ Soe I hope this will convinas²⁶⁵ you that your fancy is still good and she intends to tell you soe herself, but [I] will beca[u]se I writ[e] this post.

Pray ask your jeweller what the smallest string of brilli[a]nts or rose di[a]monds will come to. I wo[ul]d have them very small wans. It is for my girill²⁶⁶ and I think such a thing will be natter²⁶⁷ to be littell wans. I have long promised her it, for her mother 10 years agoe borrowed my neckless to cut a figger with in the county of Clar[e] and I co[ul]d never get it from her senas, but she is to have it no longer [than when] my child²⁶⁸ comes to 15 or 16, for soe I have ord[e]red it. When I know some thing of the prise²⁶⁹ I can give drecton about it.

I wrot[e] to you my great want of jackalet, have you done any thing about it? I expect Frank Burton²⁷⁰ to night as I did last night. His wife was prity well about a fortn[i]ght agoe but was worse senas.

All your fri[e]nds hear [are] well. I shall tr[o]uble you no further at this time only I most aske what is become of poor ness Conyngham.²⁷¹ I shall writ[e] when I know and when I hear from Mr Gould that he lets me know if he has got my rent yet in his hands that I may send some littell thing to her son.²⁷² I hear his worthless father will again consent to his brother's²⁷³ being gardane²⁷⁴ to the child then there will be some littell thing to mantean him, but parhaps he will goe back [on his agreement] as he has done all re[a]dy. He is a sad wrach.²⁷⁵

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conelly

NLI, MS 41,578/6

84. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 NOVEMBER 1731

I have but littell to say to my dear sister but that I had yours of the 28[th] of last month by 4 packets that came in last Sunday, and I had wrot[e] to you by the packets a Satherday but then I forgot to tell you – you might take the heir²⁷⁶ that was left and dispose of it as you thought it.

²⁶³ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

²⁶⁴ *Lege* gentilest.

²⁶⁵ *Lege* convince.

²⁶⁶ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37), daughter of Mary (Missey) Conyngham (d. 1737).

²⁶⁷ *Lege* neater.

²⁶⁸ Mary (Molly) Burton (d. 1737).

²⁶⁹ *Lege* price.

²⁷⁰ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missey) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737), her physical health and mental wellbeing were always difficult.

²⁷¹ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁷² William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–39), son of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁷³ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁷⁴ *Lege* guardian: see letter no. 74.

²⁷⁵ *Lege* wretch.

²⁷⁶ *Lege* hair (from her deceased husband William Conolly). Katherine had commissioned Jane Bonnell to purchase a mourning ring for her: see letters nos 80 and 81.

As to the jackalet I am sor[r]y its soe dear but I can not help haveing a littell. I was too liberall of my last 100 [weight] I had from Holland, not thinking I co[ul]d have had any use for soe much. But I shall grow saving not only in that but [in] meny other things, for I fear I shall have a new and great charg[e] on [me] (I can not call it a new charg[e] for I have it meny years).

It [i]s poor John Donlavey²⁷⁷ [that] is I fear in a deying condition and will l[e]ave a great famally. I got his son well provided for some years a goe and his tow eldest girills well enough marryed, his eldest to wan Dean²⁷⁸ who my nephew Conolly has got the liveing of Radinstown²⁷⁹ for, but the passing his pattent²⁸⁰ cost me a great deall of mon[e]y for they wear not able to give 40 or 50 po[u]nd. The other is allsoe mar[r]yed to a clargy man, not yet well provided. My nephew gave her 500 po[u]nd which I have well secur[e]d for her and her childrin, only they have the int[e]rest till he is worth such a sume in Church liveings, then the int[e]rest is to goe with the principle for her use. And it cost me too much to rig her out,²⁸¹ for her father co[ul]d not. Now I have given you a long account of that poor famally.

I wo[ul]d have vennells²⁸² in my jacklet but not very high. I know of no body comeing hear to bring my [mourning] ring. When I know what you lay[ed] out for it and the jackalet, I'll order you the mon[e]y and your one²⁸³ [allowance].

Whear is ness Conyngham?²⁸⁴ I asked that before I beli[e]ve. The gardu[i]anship will at last be settled if the father can be beli[e]ved.

Sister Jones²⁸⁵ is not well. Forst a great cold which is gone off with a sevear purging²⁸⁶ which has held her a fortnight by vallant²⁸⁷ fits. My child is very well, I beli[e]ve Frank Burton²⁸⁸ will writ[e] in this cover if he has time. I shall say no more but sarvis from brother Pearson and Nancy.²⁸⁹ Her close was the gentelest²⁹⁰ at the Castell allowed by all and she the best girill there.

I sent your lether to Mr Samson²⁹¹ when I got it. I am my dear sister [your] ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

²⁷⁷ She is probably referring to her brother-in-law John Dunlevie who married an unnamed sister of William Conolly (1662–1729) and unidentified members of his family: see letter no. 36, note 410.

²⁷⁸ Probably referring to Jane Deane, daughter of John Dunlevie. Ann (Jane) Pearson left £20 p.a. for life to Mrs Jane Deane, widow, in her will dated 16 May 1749: IAA, Castletown papers, G/8.

²⁷⁹ Rodenstown, Co. Meath, William Conolly's country residence prior to his purchase of the Castletown estate.

²⁸⁰ Patents incurred fees and that is what Katherine is referring to here.

²⁸¹ To provide a trousseau.

²⁸² *Lege* vanilla.

²⁸³ *Lege* own.

²⁸⁴ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁸⁵ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

²⁸⁶ *Lege* severe purging. Inducing a purge or vomit was one of the staple eighteenth-century medical treatments, designed to remove the impurity causing illness from the body.

²⁸⁷ *Lege* violent.

²⁸⁸ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37) daughter of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁸⁹ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1715–36) and her father Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

²⁹⁰ *Lege* gentilest: see letter no 83.

²⁹¹ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 7, note 56.

[PS] I saw Mrs Buckley yesterday, she had yours and is well. I hope before this you got mine by Sandy Nisbet.²⁹²

NLI, MS 41,578/6

85. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 DECEMBER 1731

I had my dear sisters. I sopose before this you have had 2 letters from me, wan with the bill drawan on Mr Gould and wan I wrot[e] 2 or 3 days before that. That with the bill in it I think was inclosed to Mr Gould.

Mrs Buckley²⁹³ is better, free of p[a]ine but great wackness²⁹⁴ in her feet. I am glad my jackalet is come a way for I beginne to want it and I most again tr[o]uble you to get me half a hundred [weight] more of jackalet, for I am quit[e] disap[p]o[i]nted of that I expected from Holland.

I am for the small neckless of bril[l]i[a]nts, but I have nothing to say to the wan of with the rubys and di[a]monds, but wither I sho[ul]d have the brilli[a]nt wan or the rose di[a]monds I am at a loss.²⁹⁵ Soe doe in that as you pl[e]ase, for Mrs Burton is to wear my brill[i]ent neckless no longer then my child is 15 or 16 years old.²⁹⁶ I opened yours to Frank Burton²⁹⁷ who went home the day before the packets came in.

You aske[d] a quasten²⁹⁸ about our parl[ia]ment. The great questen in disput[e] was thus – a lo[a]ne of 2 or 3 hundred thousand was to be borrowed, for the de[b]ts of the nattion is great, and if [it] is borrowed to pay the most pressing de[b]ts, it is to be at 5 per cent. Air²⁹⁹ Lord L[ie]u[t]enant³⁰⁰ and meny more thought this loon³⁰¹ being at soe low int[e]rest it wo[ul]d not come so redly³⁰² in, as if they had a longer securiety then two years, soe they wear for 21 years, which most cartanly [would] have bine a better securiety then two years – for they may trencefer³⁰³ there mon[e]y as they have accasion or take it out when they plaas.³⁰⁴ [The] Lord L[ie]u[t]ent thought this the most secure way but, as he says, if the parl[ia]ment thought the other way best for them

²⁹² Alexander Nesbitt: see letter no. 83, note 256.

²⁹³ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

²⁹⁴ *Lege* weakness.

²⁹⁵ A receipt in Jane Bonnell's correspondence dated 7 Jan. 1731 of money paid to Mr Stearn and Mr Bligh Robert, London jewellers, indicates that the cost totalled £39.4s.: NLI, MS 41580/41.

²⁹⁶ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and her daughter Mary (Molly) (1726–37): see letter no. 83.

²⁹⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744). Rarely were letters considered private; they were written with the expectation that they would be read by others, hence Katherine's, Jane's and Mary's reassurances at times to each other that they had destroyed certain letters they received. It is interesting to note that Mary Jones asked her sister Jane to send letters to her through her son-in-law, the Dublin merchant Ralph Sampson (1693–1763), to avoid them being seen and read by Katherine.

²⁹⁸ *Lege* question.

²⁹⁹ *Lege* our.

³⁰⁰ 1st duke of Dorset, lord lieutenant: see letter no. 83, note 259.

³⁰¹ *Lege* loan.

³⁰² *Lege* readily.

³⁰³ *Lege* transfer.

³⁰⁴ *Lege* please.

selves it was just equall to him, for he co[ul]d nather gain nor loss³⁰⁵ by it, and a great meny that was for the tow³⁰⁶ years now wishes it wear to do again and they wo[ul]d be for the 21. This is in short the substance[e]s of this affear as fare as I understand it.

The child's neckless most be the full bre[a]dth of the maseur³⁰⁷ you sent, longer then the masseur, soe that is all the derections I need give you. I did not think I sho[ul]d have wrote quarter soe much as I have done. [I] just goe to Castelltown. All my fri[e]nds hear with me wishes you meny hap[p]y Xmasis [*sic*] and New Years. Sister Jones is now prity well. I am my dear sisters most affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/6

86. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 MARCH 1731[/32]

I had my dear sisters yesterday with the mallancholly account you give of yourself and the inclosed which was more pertick[u]ler. I hope you will make some body writ[e] for I can not be e[a]sey till I hear you ear be[t]ter.

Inclosed is a letter to Gould and Nisbet.³⁰⁸ I am in your deet by your account 51 po[u]nd seven shilling. I have drawan the note on them for eighty po[u]nds, soe paying what I owe you [£]51–07–0 and your one³⁰⁹ 25 po[u]nd for your quarter [allowance] dew from me the 1st of Febr[uar]y, you will have a small sume of mine in your hands which pray make use of to get you anything that [is] nesecery now in your illness.

I shall add no more till I hear from you which I shall impattantly³¹⁰ long for. I let Mrs Buckley³¹¹ know how ill you wear. She is now prity well. I pray God send me a good account from you which will be a great comfort to me. I am my dear, dear, sister, your ever affectionate, K: C.

NLI, MS 41,578/6

87. KATHERINE CONOLLY, BUNCRAGGY,³¹² TO JANE BONNELL, 22 JULY 1732

Last night I had my dear sisters of the 9[th]. I cume last Monday and fo[u]nd Molly³¹³ better then I co[ul]d have beli[e]ved by the accounts she gives of her self, and truly I think there is some sort of hummer in her not ende[a]vering to use her feet. As to that swelling, I doe not make any great matter of it. Its often she says no big[g]ler then a small nut, when at the worst not soe big as an eg[g]e. When she fret[s] it is worse. I find its in the groyn,³¹⁴ that she leys constantly on that side and she is ether

³⁰⁵ *Lege* neither gain nor lose.

³⁰⁶ *Lege* two.

³⁰⁷ *Lege* measure.

³⁰⁸ The firm of Gould & Nesbit, London, letter no. 69, see note 21.

³⁰⁹ *Lege* own.

³¹⁰ *Lege* impatiently.

³¹¹ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

³¹² Buncraggy, Co. Clare, the Burton family residence.

³¹³ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³¹⁴ *Lege* groin.

lug[g]ing up her dogs or the boy,³¹⁵ who is a very big boy. I am sure I co[ul]d not take him up as she doth. She is fatter then I ever saw her and eats tollerably for wan that never sturs. She say she sleeps ill but that I cannot tell. She is now in great spirits, soe much for her. The boy is a most charming strong fellow and no body can wish for a finer child, soe I am sure they have tew³¹⁶ sweet childrin. God spear³¹⁷ them to them.

As to this places,³¹⁸ its really a very fine comfortable [house] being [?], and that [damaged, Missy?] that cannot be hap[p]ly content with her lot [damaged], very unr[e]asonable which I fear is our case. [damaged, A?] good house, all sorts of offices, extr[e]amly [damaged], very fine gardins at the bottom of which runs [damaged] river³¹⁹ 2 or 3 miles over, in which is severall [damaged, islands?], some thing like Mount Charles³²⁰ – a great meny good n[e]ighbo[u]rs. I was last night from dinner till near twelve with wan of them, she inqu[i]red for you as an old acquaintans.³²¹ Her [maiden] name was Stratford mar[r]yed to wan Mr Hickman.³²² They can walk from wan house to the other in seven or 8 minnets, but it's a mile [by] the couch rood.³²³

I was 3 nights at the wodow Burtons³²⁴ before I came hear. She lives extr[e]amly well and every thing mighty neey³²⁵ and well about her. I never meet with more reall respect, kindness and sivilty in my life. She came hear with me, stayd tew³²⁶ nights and went hom[e].

I never saw soe ch[e]ap a co[u]ntrey to live in. I am ammesed³²⁷ at the ch[e]apness of all sorts of provision. Did I live in soe ch[e]ap a co[u]ntrey I sho[ul]d grow rich indeed but still I see a mismanigment, he³²⁸ seems full of care and an ear³²⁹ of bissness. I think I have given you a full account of all hear. I shall stay about a

³¹⁵ Francis Pierpont Burton, later Conyngham (1721–87), son of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³¹⁶ *Lege* two. The children referred to are Francis Pierpont (1721–87) and Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³¹⁷ *Lege* spare.

³¹⁸ For some Burton estate papers see NLI, Conyngham papers, MSS 35,339–35,434. For details of the Buncraggy house and estate see <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie> (accessed 18 Dec. 2014).

³¹⁹ Referring to the Owenslieve River and/or Killene Lake.

³²⁰ Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, the residence of the Conyngham family.

³²¹ *Lege* acquaintance.

³²² Mrs Hickman (d. 1753) of Barnick House, the mother of Robert Hickman, MP for Co. Clare and sister of Col Stratford of Belah, Co. Kildare. Francis (Frank) Burton's uncle, Benjamin Burton (d. 1728) of Co. Carlow, married Grace Stratford in 1686. This may also be the family connection: Noel Murphy (ed.), *County and city of Limerick, births, marriages and deaths, part 1. From the Magazine of Magazines, 1751 to 1761* (www.limerickcity.ie/Library, accessed 2 May 2014).

³²³ *Lege* coach road.

³²⁴ *Lege* widow. Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765) was daughter of Thomas Tilson; she married Francis Burton (d. 1714).

³²⁵ *Lege* neat.

³²⁶ *Lege* two.

³²⁷ *Lege* amazed.

³²⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³²⁹ *Lege* air. However, the Burtons lived very much beyond their means and Katherine frequently assisted them financially.

fortnight or 3 wicks longer. Now I must tell you [it was the] worse rood I never travel[l]ed [un]till I came within 15 or 16 miles of this.

I am glad your cough is e[a]sey. I have got tow receats³³⁰ for a cough that I am told by twenty p[e]opell that has tryed them never fealled,³³¹ both ch[e]ap and very e[a]sey. I'll send them to you when you places,³³² but now I am tyerd soe can add no more than the sencere love and sarvics from Frank, Molly and the little wans,³³³ and beli[e]ve [me I am] ever [your] affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/6

88. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 30 SEPTEMBER 1732

9 packets come in and not a letter from my dear sister which tr[o]ubles me and I am sure the fa[ul]t is not of my side. I hope it's the miscar[r]i[a]ge of letters or any [other] case but illness. I hope before this r[e]aches you I shall hear from you.

Last post I had a letter from Frank, he says Molly³³⁴ goes on prity well. Her esterick³³⁵ fits attacks her some times, other ways very well. The boy³³⁶ has not bine well but is much better. It was a severe bracking³³⁷ out, his mother is the same way. They wear both a little soe when I was there. I thought it the i[t]che but they wo[ul]d not allow it. They have given him sulfere and phycik³³⁸ but they deer not give her any thing now. I was in a fright all the while I was there for fear of my child³³⁹ get[t]ing it, beca[u]se the night her father was abroad she was her mothers bedfellow, but no hurt came of it.

How did you like the cloth. I bought some of [the] same and it did not prove soe well as I co[ul]d wish it, but now affter the 3[r]d washing it looks better as all our Ierish cloth³⁴⁰ doth. It cost as much as that you mentioned that I sent you before, tho[ugh] I doe not think it soe good.

Sister Jones, Miss Pearson and my girill³⁴¹ gives sarvice. I have bine hear a fortnight and shall continiue hear some time. I shall writ[e] no more till I hear from you. I doe not know if I wrot[e] to you for a pint of palsey drops³⁴² for poor Bety

³³⁰ *Lege* receipts, remedy.

³³¹ *Lege* failed.

³³² *Lege* please.

³³³ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737); their children were Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37) and Alice (1728–45) Burton. Their youngest child William was not born until 1733.

³³⁴ Francis (Frank) (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³³⁵ *Lege* hysteric.

³³⁶ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87).

³³⁷ *Lege* breaking.

³³⁸ *Lege* sulphur and physic, medicines.

³³⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³⁴⁰ Meaning Irish linen. The Conollys were anxious to promote Irish manufactures; William Conolly (1662–1729) requested that Irish linen scarves be worn at his funeral.

³⁴¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765), Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1715–36) and Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³⁴² A medicinal remedy used in cases where the patient complained of low spirits, drowsiness, dizziness or faintness due to a 'bad disposition of the blood'. The dose was one or two teaspoons two or three times a day mixed in a glass of wine and water or valerian tea: Smith, *The family physician*, p. 22.

Leslie³⁴³ who is very ill. If I did not [ask] before I doe now. I sent her the half of what I had. Pray send some of the pills mentioned in the inclosed.³⁴⁴ Its for Nancy Person who has had [for] these 5 or 6 months a[n] ougly³⁴⁵ cough with a shortness of bre[a]th. I brought her hear to drink assis milk, she is better. I am my dear sisters most sencerly, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/6

89. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 NOVEMBER 1732

I had tow letters from my sister, both came in wan day after e[a]che other. As to the request at the last, I can say nothing of it, not hear[d] by any sure hand that the young man³⁴⁶ has any accasion for jewells. I am sure he wants mon[e]y more than any thing elas, for he is a great deal in deet haveing payd but triffills of the legeseys,³⁴⁷ and has such a giveing away temper that I see no end of such expenses. My brother Pearson³⁴⁸ and all his fri[e]nds is very une[a]sey about it. I am sure it gives me vast tr[o]uble and we all think nothing but a discrit³⁴⁹ wife can make him allter this expensive way of acting. I have often both spoke[n] and wrot[e] to him on this heed, and by a letter I had leatly from him he sayd he wo[ul]d never mention the word matteramony³⁵⁰ till he had some cartanty of it – and this is all I know, but that he wo[ul]d l[e]ave London so[o]ne to go into Sussecas,³⁵¹ but he mentions no more, but says he wo[ul]d stay in the co[u]ntery till affter Xmass. How ever as you soe e[a]rnestly desire a letter to him, I inclose this. But till you have some cartanty, I think it sho[ul]d not be deliv[e]red.

I am glad you ear come safe to London. I shall long to hear if the ffoxy weather we have hear this wick past agrees with you, for I sopose its soe with you. I sent yours to Mrs Buckly³⁵² who is prity well. I hope that jackalet may be hear by Xmas which will sarve my turn. I have had a fevear – cold, its now better. I am glad you ear so pl[e]ased with the cloth and that it is exceptable.³⁵³ I am so angrey with the man

³⁴³ Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of William (1660–98) and Mary Leslie (*née* Echlin of Ardquin).

³⁴⁴ The enclosure is missing.

³⁴⁵ *Lege* ugly.

³⁴⁶ Referring to William Conolly (1706–54) who married Lady Anne Wentworth (1714–97) in 1733. It is unclear to what extent Katherine and William Conolly influenced his upbringing, but they certainly did provide financial support to him following the death of his father in 1713 and his mother in 1720. William Conolly's (1662–1729) interest in his nephew's career increased at the same time that Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) began to fall out of favour. As ultimate beneficiary of his uncle's estate William Conolly was an attractive marriage prospect among English social circles: Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*, pp 21–2.

³⁴⁷ Referring to the payment of some bequests made by William Conolly (1662–1729) in his will, as his executor William Conolly (1706–54) was tardy in paying them.

³⁴⁸ Col Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

³⁴⁹ *Lege* discreet.

³⁵⁰ *Lege* matrimony.

³⁵¹ *Lege* Sussex, England.

³⁵² Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

³⁵³ *Lege* acceptable.

that sold it to me that I have bought noon³⁵⁴ from him senas beca[u]se I think it was deer, but I find it washes well, for I have some of the same.

When you have payd for the jackalet or any thing you have layd out for me, you promised me more [sewing] needells. I want no coarse wans. The coursest I want is such as wo[ul]d make linning of 3 or 4 shillin[g]s a yard, and the rest fine wans. And 2 good pen knives – the last was not very good. Bety Leslie³⁵⁵ writ[e]s to me she is get[t]ing threed³⁵⁶ for you which she will order to be left hear and I'll send it by the forst opertanety³⁵⁷ to you. Docter Hamilton³⁵⁸ is not yet landed.

As I sho[ul]d have sayd before, send me your account that I may order you some mon[e]y when I know what you have of mine in your hands. For I have great accasion³⁵⁹ for mon[e]y now in London and most draw nixt post for 150 [pounds] on Gould and Nesbit for marble I can not get hear for the monimynt I am making for my dear Mr Conolly,³⁶⁰ which will cost me above 600 po[u]nd, and I have this summer built an ill³⁶¹ to our church that has cost me above 300 po[u]nd. For the church was by much too littell for the p[e]opell and tho[ugh] meny p[e]opell sayd they wo[ul]d contrebute towards rebu[i]lding the old church, I find soe meny obj[e]ctions and soe littell mon[e]y like to come in that I have done all at my one³⁶² expence, and its larger and ten times hansamer³⁶³ then the old church.

These things and a thousand others makes me poor at present. But let me know if di[a]monds be now re[a]sonable, for as Col[onel] Montgomery³⁶⁴ left me 100 po[u]nd to buy a ring, I think I ought to doe it so[o]ne. But that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] All fri[e]nds well and sarvis³⁶⁵ to you.

NLI, MS 41,578/6

³⁵⁴ *Lege* none.

³⁵⁵ Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of William Leslie (1660–98): see letter no. 88, note 343.

³⁵⁶ *Lege* thread.

³⁵⁷ *Lege* opportunity.

³⁵⁸ Unidentified, but referring to John Hamilton: see letter no. 70.

³⁵⁹ *Lege* occasion.

³⁶⁰ The Conolly monument, erected by Katherine Conolly in memory of her husband in 1736, was the first of a series of monuments built. It stood in a mausoleum attached to the Protestant church in Celbridge village but is now located at Castletown House. It features splendidly carved life-sized marble figures of both William and Katherine by the London based sculptor Thomas Carter the elder (d. 1757). The architectural setting has been attributed to the leading Irish based funerary sculptor William Kidwell (1662–1736). It features a marble plaque describing William Conolly's virtues and achievements including the assertion that he had made a modest though splendid use of his great riches. In total the monument and the erection of the Death House or mausoleum to accommodate it cost £2,000: it is described in Lena Boylan, 'The Conollys of Castletown' in *Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, xi, 4 (Oct–Dec, 1968), pp 1–48.

³⁶¹ *Lege* aisle.

³⁶² *Lege* own.

³⁶³ *Lege* handsomer.

³⁶⁴ Probably referring to Robert Montgomery (1654–1729), the son of Maj. John Croghan Montgomery (1620–1679) and Dorcas Montgomery (*née* Montgomery) (1624–79) of Croghan, Co. Donegal.

³⁶⁵ *Lege* service.

90. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 FEBRUARY 1732/[33]

I wrot[e] to my dear sister soe leatly that I have but littell to say now but I for got in my last to tell you I wo[ul]d have you bespeak a wan ston[e] di[a]mmond ring for me. I wo[ul]d have it to fit my littell finger, which may be a full size large[r] then for yours, or 2 sizes big[ger]. ‘Left me by my fri[e]nd Col[onel] Montgom[er]y³⁶⁶ must be put on it. I wo[ul]d not have it exce[e]d 70 or 80 po[un]d[s]. Hary Clemons³⁶⁷ is this day gone for England and will return in a month, but Mr Webb³⁶⁸ your jeweller most trust me till affter May. That [is when] my Welch rents³⁶⁹ comes in, for I have littell or no mon[ey] now in Gould and Nisbet’s hands. Pray let me allsoe know [at] what [price] I co[ul]d get a han[d]some fash[i]onable wa[t]ch with han[d]some case (and ch[a]ine, the hook not gould³⁷⁰). Some times such things ear got re[a]sonable – I know you will doe your best. It’s a fri[e]nd that implore[es] me in it.

I hope before you receive this you have got the things I sent by Col[one]l Leganer.³⁷¹ Just as he was a going I got a small bundle of threed from cousin Curry³⁷² or Bety Leslie³⁷³ to be sent to you. I hope you have got that littell box with 24 g[u]ineys and the linnin and the threed. I shall add no more. But you mention 28 shillin[g]s of mine in your hands, wear it more, it is at your sarvices soe that you need not have mentioned that triffell. My sarviss³⁷⁴ to Mr Smith.³⁷⁵

I doe not know if in my last I acq[ui]nted you of Sir Ralph Gores death.³⁷⁶ He has left all to his lady and her childrin, nor soe much as any legecey to his poor mother,

³⁶⁶ See letter no. 89.

³⁶⁷ Col Henry (Harry) Clements (1704–45), MP for Cavan borough between 1729 and 1745, was the fourth son of Robert Clements (1664–1722) and Elizabeth (*née* Sandford) of Rathkenny, Co. Cavan. He was killed in action at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745.

³⁶⁸ Peter Webb, jeweller, whose business between 1724 and 1772 was listed at no. 28 Throgmorton Street, London: Susan M. Hare, *The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths* (London, 1985), p. 265.

³⁶⁹ See letter no. 60, note 702.

³⁷⁰ *Lege* gold.

³⁷¹ General Sir John (Jean Louis) Ligonier (1680–1770), 1st Earl Ligonier, was a French-born British soldier. He and his brother Colonel Francis (*alias* François) Ligonier were close friends with Nathaniel Clements (1705–77): Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements*, pp 38–45; for Earl Ligonier see *ODNB*.

³⁷² Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh: see letter no. 72, note 94.

³⁷³ Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of William Leslie (1660–98): see letter no. 88, note 343.

³⁷⁴ *Lege* service, greetings.

³⁷⁵ Possibly Thomas Smith of Lisgoole, Co. Fermanagh who married Mary Conolly (d. 1724), sister of William Conolly (1662–1729). Their daughter Molly stayed in Castletown: see letter no. 33, note 361.

³⁷⁶ Sir Ralph Gore (*c.* 1675–1733) 4th bt, was the son of Lady Hannah Gore (*née* Hamilton) (a relative of Katherine Conolly). He served as chancellor of the Irish exchequer and as speaker of the Irish House of Commons. He represented Donegal borough in the Irish House of Commons from 1703 until 1713 and then Donegal county from 1713 until 1727. Subsequently he sat for Clogher until his death. He married Lady Elizabeth Ashe, daughter of Rev. St. George Ashe. Their seven children included George St George, 5th bt (1725–46) who married Alice Burton, daughter of Francis (1696–1744) and Mary Burton (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765); and General Ralph Gore, 1st and last earl of Ross (1725–1802) who married first Katherine (Kety) Conolly, daughter of Rt Hon. William Conolly and Lady Anne (*née* Wentworth), and second Alicia Clements, daughter of Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) and Hannah (*née* Gore) (d. 1781); George E. Cokayne, *et al* (eds), *The complete baronetage* (5 vols, reprint, Gloucester, 1983), iv, p. 217; *HIP*.

his 2 daughters by our cousin³⁷⁷ or any body. He s[h]o[ul]d have cons[i]d[e]red his rise in the world was by his forst lady³⁷⁸ and her fri[e]nds.

I am sor[r]y to tell you that our good fri[e]nd docter Worth³⁷⁹ dyed last Satterday much lemented. [He] is to be burryed this day, my couch³⁸⁰ is now gone. [He] has left our fri[e]nd Mr Worth³⁸¹ all his esteat and so all exct; 2000 po[u]nds to a Colidge in Oxford whear he was breed;³⁸² a 1000 po[u]nd to docter Stevens Hosspitle and his fine liberry³⁸³ of more.

But I trust in God this will find you bet[t]er then when you wrot[e] last which I long to hear, and am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/7

91. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 8 MARCH 1732/[33]

I had my dear sisters wrot[e] with her o[w]n hand by Sundays packet and a Tu[e]sday night I had Mr Smiths³⁸⁴ of the forst with the ag[g]re[e]able account that you wear better by the turn you wear attacked with the Tu[e]sday before he wrot[e], which was forst of March. So that I trust in God this will find you much recovered which I shall have great joy to hear, and hopes e[i]ther you or Mr Smith, who has bine very obliging to me, will let me hear frequently how it is with you. Pray make my complem[en]ts to Mr Smith.

I long to hear Col[one]l Leganeer³⁸⁵ [h]as sent you the littell box, linin and threed was sent by him, for he left this about the 24[th] of last month.

I am much consarned at what you mention about poor ness Conyngham.³⁸⁶ I wish it wear in my power to help her, she has a most worthless husband. He thought I

³⁷⁷ The Conyngham connection with Sir Ralph Gore was probably through the marriage of Hannah Hamilton and Sir William Gore (d. 1700), 3rd bt.

³⁷⁸ Elizabeth Colville, daughter of Sir Robert Colville, married as his first wife Sir Ralph Gore (c. 1675–1733) 4th bt in 1705.

³⁷⁹ Dr Edward Worth (1678–1733): see letter no. 78, note 170.

³⁸⁰ *Lege* coach.

³⁸¹ Edward Worth (c. 1678–1741) who married Dorothy Whitfield (d. 1732), probable sister to Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733): see letter no. 78, note 170.

³⁸² Edward Worth (c. 1678–1733) studied medicine at Leiden and Utrecht (MD 1701) before returning to Dublin where he was incorporated MD at Trinity College: *Irish Medical Journal*, 80: 5 (May 1987), p. 132; *DIB*.

³⁸³ Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, was founded in 1720 under the terms of the will of Dr Richard Steevens (c. 1654–1710), an eminent physician, through the efforts of his sister Griselda Steevens. It was designed by Thomas Burgh. Dr Edward Worth (1678–1733) bequeathed to Dr Steevens' Hospital £1,000, his library valued at £5,000, together with £100 for fitting it up. The collection is made up of some 4,500 volumes, many on medicine, the earliest dating from 1475. The Edward Worth Library continued to be housed in its original bookcases in the former hospital premises (latterly the administrative headquarters of the Health Service Executive): T. Percy C. Kirkpatrick, *The history of Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 1720–1920* (Dublin, 1924; repr. 2008). For Richard Steevens (c. 1654–1710), and Grizel (Grizell, Grissell) Steevens (c. 1654–1747) see also *DIB*.

³⁸⁴ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole, Fermanagh: see letter no. 90, note 375.

³⁸⁵ General John (Jean Louis) Ligonier: see letter no. 90, note 371.

³⁸⁶ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) who married Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

was too long at eas from his truckeling³⁸⁷ me, so has begone³⁸⁸ a new affear with me to brack³⁸⁹ the trust of the deed made on Newtown estate.³⁹⁰ The forst I get goeing I will send her ten or 12 g[u]ineys, if soe small a sume will be of any sarvias³⁹¹ to her. (He is a brute to neglect such a wife).

Mrs Buckley, sister Jones³⁹² and all your fri[e]nds ear now prity well. Tho[ugh] I know non[e] has escaped the cold and a vast number has deyed, tho[ugh] I thank God the bills³⁹³ has decr[e]ased both last wick and this near³⁹⁴ the great rise [that] was a fort night agoe. Its mostly featell³⁹⁵ to the poorest sort.

I shall say no more haveing wrot[e] leatly to you but to as[s]ure you I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

92. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 17 MARCH 1732/[33]

I have littell to say to my dear sister senas my last but am glad you ear able to writ[e] so long letters and hopes this good we[a]ther will set you up, for till within these 2 days we have had a most seveal se[a]son.

Frank Burton³⁹⁶ landed hear last Monday and went home yesterday, but an houre³⁹⁷ before he went he had the good news that a Monday night Molly was saff[e]ly delivered of a lusty boy³⁹⁸ and she and child as well as co[ul]d be expected. When the watters came a way she was but a few hours ill, but was gromlin³⁹⁹ 2 or 3 days before.

I wrot[e] to you wanst that I had a mind for a gold wa[t]ch but I have allt[e]red my mind and shall not want it. But I most have a ring of my dear Nancy Pearsons hear⁴⁰⁰ as so[o]ne as possible. I have wrote to my nephew Conolly⁴⁰¹ to let you have the mon[e]y. I wo[ul]d have it about 12 or 14 po[u]nd priss⁴⁰² and some way diff[e]rent from my last and with some prity⁴⁰³ motto – ever dear and much lamented – or

³⁸⁷ *Lege* troubling.

³⁸⁸ *Lege* begun.

³⁸⁹ *Lege* break.

³⁹⁰ Katherine is referring to the Newtown Limavady estate which Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) co-inherited with his brother Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) from their uncle William Conolly (1662–1729).

³⁹¹ *Lege* service.

³⁹² Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733) and Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

³⁹³ The *Bills of Mortality* were the printed weekly mortality statistics for Dublin and London, designed to monitor sickness, death and burials.

³⁹⁴ *Lege* above.

³⁹⁵ *Lege* fatal.

³⁹⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³⁹⁷ *Lege* hour.

³⁹⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and William Burton (1733–96).

³⁹⁹ *Lege* grumbling.

⁴⁰⁰ *Lege* hair, of Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36), her niece and ward, who had died.

⁴⁰¹ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁰² *Lege* price.

⁴⁰³ *Lege* pretty.

what you will. I do not know the sume my nephew is to pay you for I am to buy some linnin for him and what ever it is you shall have it. I think to buy it to day and if I doe you shall know the same.

We ear all now prity well. I goe nixt to Castelltown for a fortnight. The child⁴⁰⁴ has a littell hard cough senas her cold. As to Sir Ralph Gores⁴⁰⁵ daughters, they have there mothers fortune but no more and never had half there int[e]rest. The eldest maryed this 4 years and ill maryed, a ma[t]ch made by her father, the other not maryed, lives with the old lady,⁴⁰⁶ who is a good woman and doth more for them then you wo[ul]d think possible out of her littell [fortune], for she gave up her estate severall years agoe to her son⁴⁰⁷ for what she thought wo[ul]d be sufficisant for her to live on, not dou[b]ting but he wo[ul]d give her a 100 pound a quarter, her estate being above [£]500. This she told me her self and sayd she thought she wo[ul]d have surrend[er]ed but was unwilling to expos[s]e him before his la[w]yers and soe it stands. Soe now you have an account of that famally.

I hope before this Col[one]l Leganer⁴⁰⁸ has sent you what I sent by him. My sarvis to Mr Smith.⁴⁰⁹ Poor Mr Clarks⁴¹⁰ son Mick had like to have deyed last wick, but is now I hope out of danger. Sister Jones⁴¹¹ is very well and gives you her sarvias. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] My girill was in great joy at hearing she had a young brother but when her father⁴¹² told her she [had] lost 5000 pound of her portion she looked blank. And affter being some time silent, she sayd, well then I stick closs[e] to my one⁴¹³ dear mama⁴¹⁴ and she will give me a portion and never left me all day. She is a delightfull girill, God bless her and make her good.

My nephew⁴¹⁵ will pay you about 18 or 19 po[u]nd, but I wo[ul]d not have the ring I mention to be above 12 or 14 po[u]nd, soe you may keep the rest in your hands till you hear from me.

[Pinned to the letter is a scroll of paper containing a lock of hair, labelled 'Miss Pearson heir'.]

NLI, MS 41,578/7

⁴⁰⁴ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁴⁰⁵ Sir Ralph Gore, 4th bt (d. 1732/33) of Manor Hamilton: see letter no. 90, note 376.

⁴⁰⁶ Hannah Hamilton (1651–1733), daughter of James Hamilton (d. 1652) and Catherine Hamilton (1623–1670/71) relict of Sir William Gore, 3rd bt (d. 1703/5).

⁴⁰⁷ May refer to either Sir Ralph Gore, 4th bt (d. 1732/33) or his brother Rev. William Gore (d. 1731).

⁴⁰⁸ General John (Jean Louis) Ligonier: see letter no. 90, note 371.

⁴⁰⁹ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole, Co. Fermanagh: see letters nos 90 and 91, note 375.

⁴¹⁰ Possibly a son of Michael Clarke who was MP for the borough of Ballyshannon from 1754 to 1774. William Conolly (1705–54) was Clarke's patron, relation and employer. Clarke acted as agent for the Conolly estates and was appointed guardian to the Conolly children who were minors in 1753: A. P. W. Malcomson (ed.) *The Clements archive* (IMC, Dublin 2010), p. 24.

⁴¹¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁴¹² Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37) and William Burton (1733–96), children of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴¹³ *Lege* own.

⁴¹⁴ Katherine Conolly (*née* Conyngham) (1662–1752), whom Molly Burton lived with.

⁴¹⁵ William Conolly (1706–54).

93. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 MARCH 1732/[33]

I had my dear sisters of the 13[th] yesterday. I doe not know under whose cover it came for it did not come to me for a day after the packet came in. I wo[ul]d not writ[e] soe so[o]ne again but to tell you that I am glad you have got the things by Col[one]l Legeneer.⁴¹⁶ I shall return thanks for the threed tho[ugh] I doe not know who sent it, I beli[e]ve both. It was but of leat⁴¹⁷ any of the fine sort was made, and I think I sent you a littell of it with the last threed I sent you.

Mr Armer⁴¹⁸ is very well, lives with his a[u]nts and takes care of young Mr Currys⁴¹⁹ consarns till nixt Oct[o]b[e]r when the young man comes of age and a good sober lad he is as any I know. He is still in the Collidg[e],⁴²⁰ a very good scoller. Bety Leslie⁴²¹ continues in a poor way.

As to my ring, I am as well content it sho[ul]d be 80 po[u]nd as [£]70, soe let Mr Webb⁴²² doe as he pl[e]asses. I wro[e] to you last packet that I must have a ring of my dear Miss Pearson⁴²³ heir and that my nephew Conolly⁴²⁴ wo[ul]d pay mon[e]y for me.

I am sor[r]y the we[a]ther disagrees soe much with you. We have had very bad we[a]ther. We have it cold and clire these 2 days.

Last Sunday Henry Conyngham⁴²⁵ landed hear from York whear he has bine near 3 months. There is a report that his brother⁴²⁶ is very ill in town but I make no inquirys about him. I am sor[r]y among the rest of his misssowing⁴²⁷ he sho[ul]d take no care of soe vallawble a woman as his poor wife.⁴²⁸ By wan that goes nixt wick to London I'll send you ten g[u]ineys for her. I know its too littell e[i]ther for me to give or her to receive⁴²⁹ but I have soe meny demands upon me its impossible for me to doe what I wo[ul]d, and it's a steated⁴³⁰ rule with me to lessen nothing in my way of liveing in every kind.

I will write to Mr Richison,⁴³¹ but I am so pest[e]red with letters that I cannot writ[e] the half I sho[ul]d. I had yours from Mr Hodgsons⁴³² and spoke about him,

⁴¹⁶ General John (Jean Louis) Ligonier: see letter no. 90, note 371.

⁴¹⁷ *Lege* late.

⁴¹⁸ Col Margetson Armar (d. 1733) married Mary (Molly) Corry (1710–74), daughter of Col John Corry (1666–1726) and Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁴¹⁹ Col Leslie Corry (1712–41), only son of Col John (1666–1726) and Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh; he graduated BA from Trinity College Dublin in 1732 and was MP for Killybegs: *HIP*.

⁴²⁰ Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

⁴²¹ Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of William Leslie (1660–98): see letter no. 88, note 343.

⁴²² The London jeweller: see letter no. 90, note 368.

⁴²³ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

⁴²⁴ William Conolly (1707–54).

⁴²⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴²⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴²⁷ *Lege* mis-doing.

⁴²⁸ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴²⁹ *Lege* receive.

⁴³⁰ *Lege* stated.

⁴³¹ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁴³² Unidentified, but possibly an acquaintance of Jane Bonnell who was seeking patronage in Ireland through her relationship with Katherine Conolly and the late speaker, William Conolly (1662–1729).

but you wo[ul]d pity the Commis[sio]nrs⁴³³ if you knew how they ear te[a]sed and so meny recommendat[i]ons from England that most be forst sarved.⁴³⁴ He is a sivell man and I think well settled, but no body is content with there one⁴³⁵ condition. But I have spoke, but I think a letter to Doctor Marmeduck Cogell⁴³⁶ might be of sarvics to him if you wo[ul]d writ[e] (and I have spoke[n] to him). If you send the letter to me I'll deliv[e]r it which is all I can doe. Nothing greats⁴³⁷ me more than to be denyed at that Bo[a]rd and this 16 months I have bine sollisiting⁴³⁸ for the meanest plans they have to give for an old sarvant.

As to our fri[e]nds at Beamore,⁴³⁹ they ear just as when I wrot[e] last. My sarvis to Mr Smith.⁴⁴⁰ All your fri[e]nds prity well that I know.

I have not bine well these 3 or 4 days with a p[a]ine in my right side. I had it very tr[o]ublesome meny years agoe but till of leat it has not tr[o]ubled me for a good while. I take a littell ph[ys]icik to day and am a littell eseyer.⁴⁴¹ I am quit[e] tyerd haveing wrot[e] [e]leven letters to day. I have h[e]ard nothing from Boncraggy⁴⁴² senas the forst – when I do you shall hear. Mr Ananly⁴⁴³ was just now to see me affter his unlucky fall and I hope he will doe very well again.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

94. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 MAY 1733

I had my dear sisters of the 17th and this day yours of the 24[th]. In both you tell me you think your self a littell better which I pray God to increases.⁴⁴⁴ When I had yours [detailing] who⁴⁴⁵ ill you wear, I wrot[e] to Mr Hore⁴⁴⁶ and Mr Smith⁴⁴⁷ and desired the favour of Mr Hore to let you have twenty pounds emedetly for the expences of your taking a c[o]untry lodging. I have h[e]ard nothing of it senas nor if you have got the mon[e]y. As so[o]ne as I hear I will order Mr Hore his mon[e]y. Mr Henry⁴⁴⁸ was in the co[u]ntrey and co[ul]d not then soe re[a]dily get a bill on

⁴³³ The revenue commissioners.

⁴³⁴ *Lege* first served.

⁴³⁵ *Lege* own.

⁴³⁶ Marmaduke Coghill (1673–1738): see letter no. 80, note 229.

⁴³⁷ *Lege* grates.

⁴³⁸ *Lege* soliciting.

⁴³⁹ Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the residence of Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁴⁴⁰ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole: see letters nos 90, 91, and 92, note 375.

⁴⁴¹ *Lege* easier.

⁴⁴² Buncraggy, Co. Clare, the Burton's country residence.

⁴⁴³ Unidentified.

⁴⁴⁴ *Recte* increase.

⁴⁴⁵ *Lege* how.

⁴⁴⁶ Sir Richard Hoare (1648–1719), London banker: see letter no. 3.

⁴⁴⁷ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole: see letters nos 90, 91, 92 and 93, note 375.

⁴⁴⁸ Hugh Henry (d. 1743), banker, was elected MP for Newtown Limavady in 1713 and for Antrim in 1715. Hugh Henry, Ephraim Dawson and William Lenox established the banking business Hugh Henry and Co. c. 1710. The banking partnership was dissolved in 1737. Henry married Anne Leeson, a sister of Joseph Leeson, 1st earl of Milltown in 1717 and resided at Lodge Park, Straffan, Co. Kildare: Robert Whan, *The Presbyterians of Ulster, 1680–1730* (Woodbridge, 2013), p. 67.

Gould and Nisbet as writing emedety to Mr Hore to let you have soe much. Senas I came to town I have sent a bill to them that I may now draw on them when I pl[e]ase, for before that I had littell or no mon[e]y in there hands.

I have sent my dear Miss Pearsons⁴⁴⁹ picter this day by a gentellman that is going off this day, and your not being in town I have wrot[e] to Mr Web⁴⁵⁰ to have it well done. I have sent mon[e]y by the gentellman to pay him.

Mrs Buckley⁴⁵¹ told me yesterday she had ten g[u]ineys to send to you from some body that sends soe much to you to give to some body in charity. I know not how⁴⁵² it is, but I told her I wo[ul]d get the gentellman to take it with mine to Mr Web. I have wrot[e] to Mr Web the ten g[u]ineys is for you. I have allsoe desired him to show you my dear girills⁴⁵³ picter when its done. It was begone⁴⁵⁴ before she fell ill and senas finished by wan her mother⁴⁵⁵ had drawen some years agoe. I am sor[r]y you did not like the silks ness C[onyngham] sho[we]d you for my girill.⁴⁵⁶ Inde[e]d she durtys and wears her co[a]tes out soe fast it will not last long.

Now I must tell you a piss of news; Roger Jones and his wife⁴⁵⁷ are reconsiled to my sister⁴⁵⁸ at my house at Castelltown. He wrot[e] to me his wife was trully reconsiled to our church upon conviction which I really beli[e]ve to be sencear,⁴⁵⁹ for great p[a]ines was taken with her for half a year by our clargy. She seems to be very well pl[e]ased to rece[i]ve the sacrament twist,⁴⁶⁰ takes her husband with her, which [is] more than ever his mother co[ul]d doe. I wrot[e] him word when she did all that the law requ[i]red.⁴⁶¹ I knew she made her recantation and rece[i]ved [communion]. [I] had forbid[den] all the pr[i]ests to come near her, but there was some thing more the law requ[i]r[e]d when that was done. I wo[ul]d see them and hoped to make my sister doe soe [too]. They came so[o]ne affter and all is well. I think she has the worst of it for she is a prity senceable gentell womon, very saveing they say and maniging in her house, but she has a hard task, for he is soe in deet⁴⁶² [that] without selling he can not get the better of it, and selling above the half. She is with child and our poor sister is now soe fond or so sivell⁴⁶³ that she and they ear

⁴⁴⁹ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

⁴⁵⁰ London jeweller: see letter no. 90, note 368.

⁴⁵¹ Jane Bulkeley (1654–1733).

⁴⁵² *Recte* who.

⁴⁵³ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1715–36).

⁴⁵⁴ *Lege* begun.

⁴⁵⁵ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁴⁵⁶ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁴⁵⁷ Roger Jones's (d. 1747) wife was called Elenor (unknown), and presumably was not a member of the established church.

⁴⁵⁸ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁴⁵⁹ *Lege* sincere.

⁴⁶⁰ *Lege* twice.

⁴⁶¹ Under the penal laws a Catholic man or woman marrying a Protestant and conforming to the Church of Ireland incurred no state sanctions: see Thomas P. Power, Michael Brown, Charles Ivar McGrath (eds), *Converts and conversion in Ireland, 1650–1850* (Dublin, 2005).

⁴⁶² *Lege* debt.

⁴⁶³ *Lege* civil.

this 2 or 3 days at Rafe Samsons⁴⁶⁴ co[u]ntry house about 6 mills off. What stay they made I know not.

Pray doe you or Mr Smith writ[e] more than wanst a wick, for I am une[a]sey when I doe not hear offten. In heast, I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: Conolly.

[PS] I saw Mr Richison⁴⁶⁵ this day, he says he will bring me my rings but I fancy he has left them to come with his things. If I get them before I sent this you shall know.

I forgot to tell you that our worthless nephew Willi[iam]s had the court moved last wick for an attachem[en]t⁴⁶⁶ against my parson⁴⁶⁷ for not answ[e]ring a new bill he has brought in. The purport of it is to brack or set aside the deed made on Newtown⁴⁶⁸ for the [£]15000 left by that deed, of which ten thousand po[u]nds is to his sister and brother, But they say never was a greater racket among the p[e]opell, all the courts fined that such a thing sho[ul]d be moved. I wish it had bine granted [be]for[e] I had given.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

95. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 8 JUNE 1733

I wrot[e] to my dear sister yesterday and last night I had yours of the 31[st] of May. I cannot immagine what is become of all the letters I writ[e] to you, for opon my word I have not mis[s]ed a wick, and some times twist a wick, senas the tenth of May. I am sor[r]y you find so littell benyfict⁴⁶⁹ by the chang[e] of ear⁴⁷⁰ as you mention in yours. There is too very simpell medi[ca]tions; I wish you wo[ul]d try e[i]ther or both of them. Wan is red cabige⁴⁷¹ broth. Take a red cabige, cot⁴⁷² it in tow, wash the half of it and with out any thing elas, let [it] stew in a close pipkin.⁴⁷³ You will get a coffey come⁴⁷⁴ full which is enough to take at a time. It will hardly keep from night till morning, soe you must make it fresh and [?]. Doe this for a wick and see how it agrees with you. I have knowon it doe more good than you can immagine.

⁴⁶⁴ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 7, note 56.

⁴⁶⁵ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁴⁶⁶ Attachment is a legal process by which a court of law, at the request of a creditor, designates specific property owned by the debtor to be transferred to the creditor, or sold for the benefit of the creditor.

⁴⁶⁷ *Lege* person.

⁴⁶⁸ The Conyngham estate at Newtown Limavady, Co. Donegal.

⁴⁶⁹ *Lege* benefit.

⁴⁷⁰ *Lege* air.

⁴⁷¹ *Lege* cabbage. Red cabbage is believed to have therapeutuc value in the treatment of ulcers. A high concentration of the amino acid called glutamine is responsible for this healing property. The Scottish doctor William Buchan also recommended the use of young cabbage leaves ‘applied warm to the side’ for the treatment of pleurisy: William Buchan, *Domestic medicine: a treatise on the prevention and cure of diseases by regimen and simple medicines with an appendix containing a dispensatory for the use of private practitioners* (19th ed., London, 1805), p. 160.

⁴⁷² *Lege* cut.

⁴⁷³ A pipkin is an earthenware cooking pot used for cooking over direct heat from coals or a wood fire.

⁴⁷⁴ *Lege* coffee cup.

The other receat⁴⁷⁵ is [to] take a pint of the best tar – Barbados tear⁴⁷⁶ is best. Put a pint of it into a pi[t]cher, poure a pint of watter on it at night, drink the watter and in the morning soe poure on more watter to drink at night. If you drink half a pint [it] is suffisent. Wanst in ten days stur⁴⁷⁷ up the tar but allways pour the watter clire⁴⁷⁸ off when you drink it. This I know has done greatly for coughs and bad lungs.

I am sor[r]y you have soe much tr[o]uble for my girills co[a]t⁴⁷⁹ – soe [long as] it have sillver in, it will doe very well. I have no more to add beca[us]e I beli[ev]e you will get my other letter and this together. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate,
Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

96. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 JUNE 1733

Yours of the 5[th] came to me yesterday. I am glad my dear sister thinks you have found any benyfact by the ear,⁴⁸⁰ and as our north east wind is not soe constant as they have bine, I hope you will find more eass.⁴⁸¹ You mention only mine of the 17[th] and 20[th]; I am sure I have wrot[e] 2 or 3 [letters] besid[e]s them, for I never miss a wick and some times oftener.

Last packet [I] sent Mr Hore⁴⁸² a bill for his 20 po[u]nd he gave you, for when I wrot[e] to him I did not know that you had rece[i]ved your quarters allowance[e]s I sent by Lady Mo[unt]joy,⁴⁸³ and I consid[e]red your takeing lodgings wo[ul]d be expensive to you which mad[e] me order that sume. I am glad you got the silk for my child'sco[a]t.⁴⁸⁴

I am sorry my nephew Conolly⁴⁸⁵ is not niser,⁴⁸⁶ for he of all mortells ought to consider my fri[e]nds as I doe his, for he wo[ul]d have had a h[e]avey hand with some of them but for my care of them.

I have all Dunleveys famally⁴⁸⁷ on my hands. I have got there son made a Col[l]ect[o]r [of customs] and am bo[u]nd in 2000 po[u]nd for him. If I dey⁴⁸⁸ before he gets other security, he and the King may whis[t]ell for the money. A girill I have put out

⁴⁷⁵ *Lege* receipt.

⁴⁷⁶ *Lege* Barbadoes tar.

⁴⁷⁷ *Lege* stir.

⁴⁷⁸ *Lege* clear.

⁴⁷⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37): see letters nos 94, 96.

⁴⁸⁰ *Lege* air.

⁴⁸¹ *Lege* ease.

⁴⁸² Sir Richard Hoare (1648–1719), London banker: see letter no. 3, note 22.

⁴⁸³ Referring to either Anne, Lady Mountjoy (*née* Boyle), daughter of Murrough Boyle, 1st Viscount Blessington, who married William Stewart, 2nd Viscount Mountjoy, on 23 November 1696, or her daughter-in-law Eleanor, Lady Mountjoy (*née* FitzGerald) (b. c. 1712), the daughter of Robert FitzGerald, who married William Stewart (1709–69), 3rd Viscount Mountjoy, of Co. Tyrone in 1727/28.

⁴⁸⁴ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37): see letter no. 94.

⁴⁸⁵ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁸⁶ *Lege* nicer.

⁴⁸⁷ Probably referring to her brother-in-law John Dunlevie: see letter no. 36, note 410.

⁴⁸⁸ *Lege* die.

promises to a workwoman besid[e]s an allowances. They and many more I have on my hands.

I have wrot[e] soe offten to you and Mr Web⁴⁸⁹ for the account of my rings that I am une[a]sey about it. For as I remit[t]ed mon[e]y senas I came to town by Gould and Nisbet, I sho[ul]d be glad to have his and your account made up, for I like my rings much.

I have a wed[d]ing affear on my hands which prevents my goeing to Beamore as I intended in May. Its a daughter of my cousen Currys⁴⁹⁰ thats with me. She is to be marryed to wan Mr Lowry, a younger brother of him that is marryed to Arch-dacken Hamiltons daughter.⁴⁹¹ [He has] a better fortune then his eldest brother and fifty times a better man. Mrs Forward,⁴⁹² our cousen Bell Stafford – Bell [?] that was – for now that I have told you all her names you most know her – and a daughter of the widow Samsons⁴⁹³ that is marryed to wan Mr McClintough is goeing im[m]ed[i]atly to London and soe to the Garman spaw.⁴⁹⁴ They tell me they will see you tho[ugh] they make no stay in London. Sister Jones⁴⁹⁵ goes to morrow to Dollenstown, she says to stay 2 months. She will then judge what a maniger his wife⁴⁹⁶ will prove. I really think she will make a prudant wife – indeed she wears very fine close. They say her fri[e]nds gave her them as a portion, others thinks they ear not payd and that he most⁴⁹⁷ pay for them.

All your fri[e]nds ear well that I know. I can add no more being tyered, but the as[s]urance that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

⁴⁸⁹ London jeweller: see letter no. 90, note 368.

⁴⁹⁰ Sarah (Sally) Corry (1709–79), daughter of Sarah (*née* Leslie) and Col John Corry (1667–1726), of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh, married Galbraith (Gilly) Lowry (1706–69) in 1733.

⁴⁹¹ Robert Lowry of Melbury, Co. Donegal, son of John Lowry of Aghenis, Co. Tyrone, married Margaret Hamilton (b. 1706), daughter of Rev. William Henry Hamilton (1664–1729), archdeacon of Armagh 1700, and his wife Catherine Leslie.

⁴⁹² It is unclear exactly who Katherine is referring to here. The Forward family resided at Castle Forward, Co. Donegal but the editors have not been able to connect this family to the Conynghams. However, Penelope Leslie (b. c. 1677), daughter of Archdeacon Henry Leslie (1651–1733) and his wife Margaret (*née* Beachan) (b. c. 1653), married Edmund Francis Stafford (1675–1723) of Mount Stafford, Co. Antrim, son of Edmond Stafford (1650–1713) of Brownstown, Co. Meath and his wife Anne (1604). Katherine's sister Mary Jones refers to her cousin 'Captain Strafford of Brownstown, Co. Meath': Mary Jones, Dublin, to Captain Strafford, Brownstown near Navan, 30 Jan. [n.d.] (IAA, Castletown papers, A/1).

⁴⁹³ Rebecca McClintock (*née* Sampson) (d. 1763), daughter of Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764) and Michael Sampson (*ante* 1680–1719). She married Alexander McClintock (1692–1775), Drumcar, Co. Louth in 1725.

⁴⁹⁴ *Lege* German Spa.

⁴⁹⁵ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁴⁹⁶ Referring to Roger (d. 1747) and Elenor Jones: see letter no. 94.

⁴⁹⁷ *Lege* must.

97. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY STRAFFORD,⁴⁹⁸ 31 JANUARY [1733[/34]]

Madam,

It is with the utmost ple[a]sure I have the honner to acque[i]nt your ladyship that yesterday at 4 a clock in the affternoon, Lady Ann Conolly⁴⁹⁹ was saff[e]ly delivered of a very fine girill.⁵⁰⁰ She was taken ill about 8 in the morning. I went to her emedetly,⁵⁰¹ fo[u]nd her not very bad, sent for her nessecary womon.⁵⁰² About a [e]leven she got up – she had all the appe[a]rances of a lingering labour – but before 2 she grew much worse and was put to bed on a couch whear she was delivered in tow⁵⁰³ hours, as well and all things as safe as ever was. She was delivered by a womon. We had 2 docters in the house all the time, but never sent to them nor they never saw her. Now madam, I sencer[e]ly wish you, my lord⁵⁰⁴ and all your family all the joy imaginable, for nothing can give more ple[a]sure then her being safe. I did not l[e]ave her till ten [*p.m.*]. You can not beli[e]ve the joy Mr Conolly and she has in lo[o]king at it. Its very prit[t]y I think. Its very like my Lord Straford. I have seen him and a prent⁵⁰⁵ of him, but Lady Ann's womon says its very like Lady Harriot.⁵⁰⁶ [I give your] ladyship no further tr[o]uble but to as[s]ure you noe care shall be wanting about your daughter.

I am madam with great respect, your ladyships most obed[i]ant [and] humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Madam, I am just come from seeing Lady Ann, she and the child is as well as pos[s]ibell.

BL, Add. MSS 22228, f. 168

98. FROM KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY,⁵⁰⁷ 23 FEBRUARY 1733[/34]

D[ea]r Lady Ann,

Inclosed is the discharges⁵⁰⁸ for all the things that was bought for you and your daughter Kety⁵⁰⁹ which I desire you to accept off from me, for I shall not take

⁴⁹⁸ Lady Anne Strafford (*née* Johnson), wife of Thomas Wentworth (bap. 1672–1739), earl of Strafford. She was the mother of Lady Anne Wentworth (1714–97) who married William Conolly (1706–54) in 1732.

⁴⁹⁹ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵⁰⁰ The eldest child of Lady Anne (1719) and William Conolly (1706–54), Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71) who married Sir Ralph Gore (1725–1802), 5th bt, in 1754; Gore was created Baron Gore in 1764 and earl of Ross in 1772.

⁵⁰¹ *Lege* immediately.

⁵⁰² Midwife.

⁵⁰³ *Lege* two.

⁵⁰⁴ Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford.

⁵⁰⁵ *Lege* print.

⁵⁰⁶ Lady Ann's sister, Lady Henrietta Wentworth (1720–86); she married Henry Vernon.

⁵⁰⁷ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵⁰⁸ See receipts from William Reilly, Conyngham Hall, to Katherine Conolly, Dublin, for 'the purchase of cot and baby clothes for Lady Annes 1st baby [Katherine] 1733'; 'Mrs Stinson, pa[i]d for cambric for Lady Ann Conolly, Feb[ruary] 22, 1733'; 'Nurse Rea's daughters receipt for work and things pa[i]d, Febr[uar]y 23, 1733' (IAA, Castletown papers, J/2).

⁵⁰⁹ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

mon[e]y for them from your ladyship, being all ways resolved to give you such things for your forst, and for the futur⁵¹⁰ I desire you may provide for your self. And the most expencive things will serve for at least a dosen more, which I hope to live to see a boy with in a year and am with great truth d[ea]r madam, your most affect[ionate] a[u]nt and serv[an]t, Ka: Conolly.

IAA, Castletown papers, J/2

99. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LORD STRAFFORD,⁵¹¹ 28 FEBRUARY [1733/[34]]

My Lord

The honner your lordship did me in soe obliging a manner to except⁵¹² of the present I sent you of my dear Mr Conolly⁵¹³ doth deserve the utmost acknowledgment from me. It had bine a present trully vallable had you bine parsonable⁵¹⁴ know[n] to him. But I may trully say no man more trully deserved the charricter he had then he did and I find your lordships judgment of his carrickter soe just that I most again return my thanks for it.

As to Lady Ann,⁵¹⁵ I thank God she is soe well recovered that she goes to church this day and afterwards dines hear. She is soe good and vallauable a young lady that she merrets⁵¹⁶ the love and esteem of all that knows her and for my o[w]n part I as[s]ure your lordship that I have the same love and regard for her as if she wear my one⁵¹⁷ daughter. For as I ever looked on her husband as my one child⁵¹⁸ – you may be as[s]ured that his wife wo[ul]d be very dear to me – and especheley⁵¹⁹ wan he was soe hap[p]y to chouse soe well.

I agree with your lordship in wishing it had bine a son,⁵²⁰ but I was soe well pl[e]ased when it was boorn and she out of her p[a]lines that I was as thankfull to God for her saff[e]ty as if it had bine a son, and Mr Conolly and I as well pl[e]ased. Indeed it is a sweet baby and the minnet it was born I thought it like your lordship, haveing seen you meny years agoe and a prent of you Lady Ann has.

⁵¹⁰ *Lege* future.

⁵¹¹ Thomas Wentworth (bap. 1672–1739), father of Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97). The tone of Katherine's letter indicates her awareness that the Wentworths (Lady Anne Conolly included) were of a socially superior status: see letter no. 97.

⁵¹² *Lege* accept.

⁵¹³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁵¹⁴ *Lege* personally.

⁵¹⁵ Referring to his daughter Lady Anne (1714–97), wife of William Conolly (1706–54), who had recently given birth to her first born child, Katherine (Kety) (1733–71): see letter no. 97.

⁵¹⁶ *Lege* merits.

⁵¹⁷ *Lege* own.

⁵¹⁸ Katherine and William Conolly acted as guardians to William (1706–54) and his sister Frances (1700–33) when their parents died.

⁵¹⁹ *Lege* especially.

⁵²⁰ Katherine and Lord Strafford are here reflecting contemporary eighteenth-century views surrounding issues of inheritance. Given that Katherine and William Conolly (1662–1729) had no children, William Conolly (1706–54) was co-heir with his cousin Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) to their large and valuable estate. See A. P. W. Malcomson, *The pursuit of the heiress, aristocratic marriage in Ireland 1750–1850* (Belfast, 2006).

I beg your lordshp will make my complements and my excuse to Lady Strafford⁵²¹ for not answering her ladyships obliging letter, but I thought it wo[ul]d be but givinge her tr[o]uble, hearing soe constantly how Lady Ann and the littell wan was.

I ask your lordships pardon for this scroull but I writ[e] in a hurry for fear of missing the packet, beca[us]e I wo[ul]d not neglect the forst op[p]ertunity of returning you my thanks for the obliging things you sayd in yours to me, and [I] am my Lord with the great[est] respect.

BL, Add. MS 22,228, f. 170

100. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 30 APRIL 1734

I have my dear sisters of 17[th] and finds by docter Scots⁵²² not coming to you, you ear still in the same uncartanty you wear in [in] your former letters. I think I wrot[e] in my last that I had got the buckells and like them very well. I have compared them with Lady Ann C[onolly's]⁵²³ and we all aggree they ear full as good the same bigness and same number of di[a]monds – 24 in eche⁵²⁴ buckell.

I wrot[e] to you that cousen Curry was returned hom[e] till the 2[n]d sess[i]on, for her daughter Lowery⁵²⁵ is to ley in in July and she wo[ul]d not be from her then.

As to the threed my cousen Curry payd for you and sent it for you, I at last got it and sent it with the piss of linnin Mrs Hamilton bought for you. I sent them by I know not how,⁵²⁶ but if they be not come to you I will send to the Lady that got a fri[e]nd of hers to carry them, who promised to l[e]ave all at Mr Hores as dedercted for you. The jacklet is come but I have not tryed it, but shall to morrow.

[In the] last packet the Bishop of Rapho⁵²⁷ sent me a letter for you. I got Mr Corry⁵²⁸ the seceretary that was hear to frank it and sent it then. I co[ul]d not then writ[e]. I sipose its an answer to yours I sent him.

Sister Jones is now very well and she tells me she wrot[e] when her daughter⁵²⁹ was brought to bed. She is, poor thing, still very ill with affter p[a]ines and rumaticck p[a]ins. She has a son,⁵³⁰ a lusty ugelly boy, and my girill⁵³¹ is to be godmother and much pl[e]ased with it.

⁵²¹ Anne Strafford (*née* Johnson), countess of Strafford.

⁵²² Unidentified English medical doctor.

⁵²³ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵²⁴ *Lege* each.

⁵²⁵ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) and her daughter Sarah (Sally) Lowry (*née* Corry) (1709–79): see letter no. 96, note 490.

⁵²⁶ *Recte* who.

⁵²⁷ Nicholas Forster, bishop of Killaloe, 1714–16, Raphoe, 1716–43.

⁵²⁸ Unidentified.

⁵²⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85): see letter no. 7, note 56.

⁵³⁰ May possibly refer to the birth of William Sampson. Although Jane Sampson and Ralph Sampson (1693–1763) had at least fifteen children all but one (Isabella, d. 1816) died young. Katherine Conolly frequently referred to them as 'sickly' and 'wasting' which suggests an inherited genetic disorder. Twelve of the children are buried in Rodanstown church, Co. Meath

⁵³¹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

My brother Pearson⁵³² is in town. My sister⁵³³ not well at home for⁵³⁴ whencs she wil[l] never stur I fear. He gives you his sarvis. I shall goe nixt wick to the co[u]ntery. I have stay[e]d much longer in town then I used to doe this time of year, but either to Castell town forst⁵³⁵ or to Beamore I know not. I long to hear how you dispose of your self. Meny of your fri[en]ds gives you there sarvis. The duck and duchess⁵³⁶ and a scaure⁵³⁷ more dined hear a Friday. I hear both Frank and Molly⁵³⁸ ear very ill. I can add no more but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] I nather have nor will tell any body what my buckells cost. Lady Ann wo[ul]d fean know; I sayd I beli[e]ved [they cost] under [£]200.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

101. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 MAY 1734

I had my dear sisters of the 12[th] hear last Sunday. I am sor[r]y you ear still in such uncartanty as to you settelling.⁵³⁹ I wish you may doe it to your sattisfacton. I hope before this you have h[e]ard of the cloth and threed. When I can doe it with any convenency I'll send you your May allowances which I hope will be so[o]ne. Doth not Mrs Hore⁵⁴⁰ come to that countery this summer. I sent your letter a Sunday to the Bishop of Raphoe⁵⁴¹ who is still in Dublin, and gave sister Jones⁵⁴² hers, who is hear.

I like the jacklet very much, I have begone on it. Brother Pearson⁵⁴³ had but the quarter of it. Jeny Samson is well recovered and her son⁵⁴⁴ well. As to Buncreggy,⁵⁴⁵ what accounts I had last Satterday [are] not for the better. Hary Conyngham⁵⁴⁶ intends goinge there this wick to see if he can perswade her⁵⁴⁷ to goe to Bath or some whear.

⁵³² Thomas Pearson (1678–1736) of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

⁵³³ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁵³⁴ *Lege* from.

⁵³⁵ *Lege* first.

⁵³⁶ Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765) who was lord lieutenant of Ireland from 1730–37 and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1768), daughter of Lt. Gen. Walter Colyear: *ODNB*; *DIB*.

⁵³⁷ *Lege* score.

⁵³⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his wife Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵³⁹ This may refer to Jane Bonnell moving to a new residence. Between 1720 and 1722 she was in lodgings at 'Mr Leonard's, Old Southampton Building near Chancery Lane, London', and in April 1737 settled at Writtle near Chelmsford, Essex, where she lived until her death: NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,580.

⁵⁴⁰ Referring to the wife of Richard Hoare (1648–1719), the London banker, in whose house Jane Bonnell frequently took lodgings: see letter no. 3, note 22.

⁵⁴¹ Nicholas Forster, bishop of Raphoe, 1716–44.

⁵⁴² Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵⁴³ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736): *HIP*.

⁵⁴⁴ Albert Sampson (b. c. 1734): see letter no. 100, note 530.

⁵⁴⁵ The Burton residence in Co. Clare.

⁵⁴⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁴⁷ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

All your fri[e]nds hear, as sister Jones, Miss Curry,⁵⁴⁸ Mrs Nisbet,⁵⁴⁹ my girill⁵⁵⁰ and some more gives you there sarviss. I have not yet bine at Beamore tho[ugh] I sp[e]ake of it and intends it. I shall long to hear from you.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

102. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 28 MAY 1734

I had my dear sisters of the 17[th] come to me yesterday. I am sor[r]y you ear in no more settled way then you wear when you wrot[e] last. I think liveing in the way you mention in the house you ear now in most be a dissmall thing. I think that places you mentioned in wan of your formore letters wo[ul]d be much better and eseyer⁵⁵¹ for you, if they be good sort of p[e]opell. I am sure wear you in Ierland you sho[ul]d be very wellcome to me when I am in the co[u]ntrey, but my stay in the co[u]ntrey is never long at a time and then I live in a hurry, which I cannot I find help.

2 years agoe you sent me for my littell girill⁵⁵² when she had sore eyes, a littell box with a salve for her eyes. Before I got it she was growing better and I still kept [it] by me. But wan of my cousin Currys daughters⁵⁵³ that she left with me has had most sad sore eyes and bine expencively in the docters hands for them, but did not grow better. I had the box hear and has made her use it, and it has done her vast sarvices. You told me you co[ul]d get the receat⁵⁵⁴ to make it, which I sho[ul]d be extr[e]amly glad off, soe pray if possible send it to me.

I as[s]ure you my girill behaved mighty well on being a godmother⁵⁵⁵ and inquires constantly if it has got teeth yet, for she is sure if it had teeth it wo[ul]d sp[e]ake.

Mr Conolly, his Lady, and there prity baby⁵⁵⁶ lives at Layslip. They ear very good n[e]ighbo[u]rs; they dine hear 4 times a wick, I have dined wanst there – its impossible for me to dine a brood⁵⁵⁷ [as] soe much compeny comes from Dublin, and my n[e]ighbo[u]rs in the co[u]ntrey, [so] that the emptyest day I am always ten or a dusen⁵⁵⁸ [to dine] and yesterday above 20. But I shall I hope hold out while I live and I have enough to do it and be kind to my fri[e]nds that wants.

⁵⁴⁸ Martha (Matty) Corry (1704–c. 1764), whom Mary Jones described as one of ‘the reigning favourites’: Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 11 Nov [n.d.] (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

⁵⁴⁹ Possibly Marjory Nesbitt (*née* Knox), who married James Nesbitt, Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

⁵⁵⁰ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵⁵¹ *Lege* easier.

⁵⁵² Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵⁵³ Sarah (Sally) Corry (1709–79) and possibly Martha (Matty) Corry (1704–c. 1764): see letter no. 101, note 548.

⁵⁵⁴ *Lege* receipt, recipe.

⁵⁵⁵ See letter no. 100.

⁵⁵⁶ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) and their daughter Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71): see letter no. 97, note 500.

⁵⁵⁷ *Lege* abroad.

⁵⁵⁸ *Lege* dozen.

I h[e]ard last post from Boncreggy, Molly⁵⁵⁹ in a most miserable condition, all that can be done or sayd [but] she will not l[e]ave her bed and [has] 2 or 3 esterick⁵⁶⁰ fits a day. Her docter, that I beli[e]ve is a good wan, wo[ul]d have other helps called in. That, she will not hear of, but falls into a fit when any thing is sayd that she doth not like and for days will not sp[e]ake to them. Her brother Hary⁵⁶¹ is gone there yesterday to see what he can doe. I inclose you Franks⁵⁶² letter. The docters [reports] I have sent to Dublin to Docter Gratton.⁵⁶³

I am called down to a couch⁵⁶⁴ full of ladys. Petter Leslies lady⁵⁶⁵ and Miss Stafford⁵⁶⁶ and 2 more, and [I] send this letter with them and can add no more then to as[s]ure my dear sister, I am most sencerly yours, K: C:

[PS] Jeny Samson⁵⁶⁷ is well recov[e]red. Sister Jones⁵⁶⁸ and more of your fri[e]nds gives you there sarvices.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

103. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 JUNE 1734

I had my dear sisters of 17[th]. You see in what hurry I allways writ[e] when I made such a mistake on the bill, but if they semply send it back and I'll send another. I am glad it was exceptble and if you doe as you say, I am sure you doe right, but I dou[b]t you much.

The sheeting went by long sea with 20000 pound of our linnin. The ship sealled⁵⁶⁹ 6 days a goe soe it will be in London as so[o]ne as this letter. Its ord[e]red to be left at Mr Hores.⁵⁷⁰ I have got the black sleat and will send by the forst I hear goes to London.

Our we[a]ther hear is very bad. Pray mention how its with you. We have had 2 or 3 hot days, but r[a]ines at night. All your fri[e]nds hear gives you there sarvices. Wan weats⁵⁷¹ to take this to Dublin soe I can add no more but that, I am my dear sisters most affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/7

⁵⁵⁹ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵⁶⁰ *Lege* hysteric.

⁵⁶¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁶² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁶³ Dr James Grattan of Howth, Co. Dublin was elected a fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians (latterly RCPI) in 1704; he was the third son of Rev. Patrick Grattan of Belcamp, Co. Dublin.

⁵⁶⁴ *Lege* coach.

⁵⁶⁵ Possibly Jane Leslie (*née* Dopping), married Rev Peter Leslie (1686–1773) of Ahoghill, Co. Antrim.

⁵⁶⁶ Possibly Anne Stafford (1715–1799), daughter of Edmund Stafford (1675–1723) and his wife Penelope (*née* Leslie) (c. 1677) of Mount Stafford, Co. Antrim.

⁵⁶⁷ Jane Jones (c. 1717–85): see letter no. 100.

⁵⁶⁸ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵⁶⁹ *Lege* sailed.

⁵⁷⁰ See letter no. 101.

⁵⁷¹ *Lege* waits.

104. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO CLOTILDA TICKELL,⁵⁷² 2 JULY 1734

Dear Madam,

I had the favour of yours yesterday and am sor[r]y I cannot comply to any request made me by Mrs Tickell, but as I have [said] before, Mrs Dellafay⁵⁷³ parted with her imploym⁵⁷⁴ when the great compla[i]nts was made against Mrs Heath.⁵⁷⁵ And Sir Ed Peares⁵⁷⁶ told me with great justices applayed then to Mrs Dellafay for l[e]ave for me to name a deputy which he gave me a promis[e] I sho[ul]d. But upon great application made to Sir Ed after he came from England from some parsons about the [Dublin] Castell, and both Sir Ed and Mrs Dellafay wrot[e] me long letters to make me not insist on the promiss made me, I was then forced to dissist.⁵⁷⁷ Tho[ugh] Mr Secretary Cary⁵⁷⁸ told me at that time, she [Mrs Delafaye] most⁵⁷⁹ be turned out for she was not fit for the plaas.⁵⁸⁰ However I gave up till now and on Mrs Humphrys⁵⁸¹ telling me she had bought Mrs Dellafays plaas I then told her I had a fri[e]nd to put in, and she promised me I sho[ul]d name how⁵⁸² I pl[e]ased. I know the thing is of littell vallaw and tr[o]ublsome, but those in bad curcomstances most⁵⁸³ take up with small matters till they can get better breed. [Damaged manuscript] promiss Mrs Humphrys has made me and when you know the parson⁵⁸⁴ you will think her curcomstances most be very bad to take up with such a thing.

I wish you joy of your littell wan and hopes you have a good recovery and that the littell wans is well, espeshally master.⁵⁸⁵ I am much Mr Tickells⁵⁸⁶ humble sarvant. The day I was in Dublin I wrot[e] to him and afterwards spoke to him for some franks which I have not yet got.

I am dear madam, with great truth and esteem, your feathfull humbl[e] sarvant,
Ka: Conolly.

Tickell papers

⁵⁷² See letter no. 30, note 312.

⁵⁷³ Elizabeth Delafaye, housekeeper: see letter no. 46, note 556.

⁵⁷⁴ *Lege* employment.

⁵⁷⁵ Unidentified.

⁵⁷⁶ Sir Edward Lovett Pearce (d. 1733), architect, who was later appointed surveyor and engineer general (1731), assisted in the building of William Conolly's (1662–1729) country seat at Castletown, Co. Kildare: *Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720–1940* (<http://www.dia.ie>, accessed 9 July 2014); *DIB*.

⁵⁷⁷ *Lege* desist.

⁵⁷⁸ Walter Cary (1685–1757), (chief) secretary to the lord lieutenant, 1730–37: *NHI*, ix, 530; *DIB*; *HIP*.

⁵⁷⁹ *Lege* must.

⁵⁸⁰ *Lege* place.

⁵⁸¹ Unidentified.

⁵⁸² *Recte* who.

⁵⁸³ *Lege* must.

⁵⁸⁴ *Lege* person.

⁵⁸⁵ The children of Thomas Tickell (1686–1740) and Clotilda Tickell were John (1729–82), Thomas (d. 1777), Margaret and Philippa. Katherine is probably referring to John Tickell (1729–82).

⁵⁸⁶ Thomas Tickell (1685–1740), secretary to the lords justices of Ireland (under secretary to the chief secretary), 1724–40: *HIP*; see letter no. 30, note 312.

105. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 JULY 1734

I had my dear sisters of the 14[th], I had [it] just the day after I wrot[e] last to you, and 2 days agoe when I came to town I had yours of the 19[th]. I am glad you like your compeny for its tyersome to be quit[e] alone.

As to poor ness Conyngham,⁵⁸⁷ I am sor[r]y it is not in e[i]ther Mr Conollys⁵⁸⁸ power or mine to sarve her. Had her bad graceless husband⁵⁸⁹ given it up 4 years agoe she wo[ul]d have got it⁵⁹⁰ chirfully,⁵⁹¹ but now that its in law – for he asinged it for a deet to wan he owed it [to] – which with⁵⁹² a great deall more [than] he owed my nephew Conolly,⁵⁹³ the court stop[p]ed payment till the account was settled, which he can not be brought to account. Soe if Mr Conolly wear ever soe willing to pay it, he cannot – I send you a scrap of Mr Conollys letter. Mr Nisbets⁵⁹⁴ I enclose this post to poor Mrs Conyngham to let her see that it cannot be done which I assure you [I] am sor[r]y for.

[In] the last letter I had from F[rank] B[urton] they thought Molly⁵⁹⁵ some what better, but those is but small intervealls. It wear hap[p]y she wear deed⁵⁹⁶ for there is not the least hopes of her being better.

I wonder the cloth is not come to you. I have sent to the draper for some account of it. If the mesige⁵⁹⁷ comes back before I seall this you shall hear what he says. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] Sister Jones⁵⁹⁸ stra[i]ned her ankell a wick before I left the co[u]ntery. That day I left home she went to Dollinstown.⁵⁹⁹ I h[e]ard twist from her sences. She mends [but] I fear it will be radiuss.⁶⁰⁰ I had a letter this minnet from sister Jones, she says she has gone down stears⁶⁰¹ with help and is better.

The draper has bine with me and has an account. The linnin is deliv[e]red as I derved it for you at Mr Hores⁶⁰² in Fleet Street and have by last packet a letter from a gentellman in London to whom he had sent 2 pisses that he had rece[i]ved it. It was in the same pack with yours, soe inquire about it.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

⁵⁸⁷ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁵⁸⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵⁸⁹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵⁹⁰ This possibly refers to the dispute between Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and his estranged wife Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) concerning the ownership of silver plate items.

⁵⁹¹ *Lege* cheerfully.

⁵⁹² *Recte* was.

⁵⁹³ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵⁹⁴ Possibly Thomas Nesbit who acted for Jane Bonnell in her dispute with her nephew Williams Conyngham concerning the Donegal estate: NLI, MS, 41,580/34

⁵⁹⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵⁹⁶ *Lege* dead.

⁵⁹⁷ *Lege* message.

⁵⁹⁸ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵⁹⁹ Dolanstown, Co. Meath, the Jones's country residence.

⁶⁰⁰ *Lege* tedious.

⁶⁰¹ *Lege* stairs.

⁶⁰² See letter no. 100.

106. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 AUGUST 1734

I sho[ul]d not writ[e] soe so[o]ne to my dear sister but to answer yours about the damask. I have had 2 shouts⁶⁰³ of it soe I know the priss.⁶⁰⁴ Well, I gave 12 g[u]ineys, but he was obliged to bl[e]ach it into the barg[a]in. But I saw some of his bl[e]aching which I did not like soe I sent it ellas whear.⁶⁰⁵ My armes⁶⁰⁶ was in the cloth and crest⁶⁰⁷ in the napkins, but [I] want[ed] large cloth, 3 yards wide and 3 and a half [yards] long; the napkins [a] yard and [a] quarter long and [a] yard brode.⁶⁰⁸ They ear very deer but b[ea]utyfully fine. Wan of my sheets I gave Lady Ann C[onolly] for hir daughters⁶⁰⁹ c[h]ristining and [Frank] Burton⁶¹⁰ gave her wan he designed for my dear Nancy.⁶¹¹ It co[ul]d not be done before nixt spring. He has much bissness and can get no good work-men. If you give derections I'll have it done, but the arms most be sent very acactly⁶¹² done.

I am sor[r]y for your sting of a wasp. Sister Jones⁶¹³ was last year so stung she was forsed to be polltised⁶¹⁴ up her arm for it. I dined at Dollenstown⁶¹⁵ last Satterday as did my [?].

[On reverse] I writ[e] in great hurry.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

107. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 NOVEMBER 1734

I have 3 letters of my dear sisters allmost together, 2 of which I answ[e]red before I left Castelltown about the 5[th] or 6[th] and came hear last Thursday, and by this days packet I had yours of the 6[th] with wan to sister Jones.⁶¹⁶

I am consarned you sho[ul]d be soe une[a]sey at not hearing from me. I wrot[e] to you at the latter end of last month for I never neglect wanst in 8 or ten days, except I want a frank – which parhaps was the case.

I have bought a piss of cloth for shifts and aprons for you. My sister Jones was buying a piss for that parpos, ⁶¹⁷ soe I bought a piss for you. I thought it a better

⁶⁰³ *Lege* sheets.

⁶⁰⁴ *Lege* price.

⁶⁰⁵ *Lege* elsewhere.

⁶⁰⁶ William Conolly's (1662–1729) coat of arms: – Ar. on a saltire eagr. sa five escallops of the field: Bernard Burke, *The general armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, comprising a registry of armorial bearings from the earliest to the present time* (London, 1842; reprint 2009).

⁶⁰⁷ William Conolly's (1662–1729) crest: – A dexter arm couped betw. the wrist and elbow vested ax. cuffed or. the hand ppr. grasping a caplet or: Burke, *General armory*.

⁶⁰⁸ *Lege* broad.

⁶⁰⁹ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) and her daughter, Katherine (Kety) (1733–71): see letter no. 97.

⁶¹⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶¹¹ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36).

⁶¹² *Lege* exactly.

⁶¹³ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁶¹⁴ *Lege* poulticed.

⁶¹⁵ Dolanstown, Co. Meath, the residence of Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁶¹⁶ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁶¹⁷ *Lege* purpose.

pisse. It was some what deerer and if it be fine enough I am content. I know it wo[ul]d not be soe for me, but I am a fooll in that pertick[u]ler. But sister Jones says she never makes any better in her life nor soe de[a]r by 12 pen[ny]s a yard, but it was being ch[e]ap [that] made her buy it and this is 4 pen[ny]s a yard deerer then hers. I'll send it by the forst safe hand, derected to Mr Hores.⁶¹⁸

I am I thank God prity well, tho[ugh] I have got a cold and some flying p[a]ines about me, but I hope it will be so[o]ne off.

The widow Hamilton⁶¹⁹ was hear and disered her sarvices to you. Poor widow Samson⁶²⁰ has got a sad accident the night [she] come [here]. [She] stayd hear till it was least goeing hom[e], fell into a hole in the street [and] put her anckell out in a miserable condition. The hoole⁶²¹ turned to the toop⁶²² of her foot and it hang like a glove, and it had nixt day liked to have turned to a mortifacation,⁶²³ but with great care the fear of that is over. But she will be a long time under it if ever she gets the better of it, and she is a most vallabell womon.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

108. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 28 NOVEMBER 1734

I have my dear sisters of the 15[th] with the packets came in last Sunday and am glad you had mine of the secoond. I have wrot[e] twist sences and sister Jones⁶²⁴ wanst in hers. I sent you a scrap of paper about the damask-crest.⁶²⁵ The w[e]aver will put it in nixt wick soe if you have any thing more to say, doe it so[o]ne. He will put in for six shouts⁶²⁶ together, but what you writ[e] is to be forst done. The bl[e]aching is very tedous⁶²⁷ and any thing soe fine is never put down till May.

You wonder Frank B[urton]⁶²⁸ doth not acquent⁶²⁹ you with his and his wifes miserable curcstance.⁶³⁰ Opon my word he never wrot[e] a word to me of what I wrot[e] to you. I had it from a reletion of ours that is setteled in that co[u]ntery and much in the house with them.

⁶¹⁸ See letter no. 100.

⁶¹⁹ Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1685–1756), daughter of Rev. Henry Leslie (1651–1733), archdeacon of Down and his wife Margaret (*née* Beachan) (b. c. 1653). In 1701 Catherine married Rev. William Henry Hamilton (1664–1729), archdeacon of Armagh, son of William Hamilton of Kinard (Kenard), Caledon and his wife Margery (*née* Galbraith).

⁶²⁰ Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764) who married Michael Sampson (*ante* 1680–1719) c. 1706.

⁶²¹ *Lege* hole.

⁶²² *Lege* top.

⁶²³ An archaic term: mortification, whereby the flesh is affected by gangrene or necrosis.

⁶²⁴ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngnam) (1675–1765).

⁶²⁵ See letter no. 106.

⁶²⁶ *Lege* sheets.

⁶²⁷ *Lege* tedious.

⁶²⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶²⁹ *Lege* acquaint.

⁶³⁰ *Lege* circumstance. Referring to the continuing ill health of Frank Burton's wife Mary (Missy) (d. 1737), and also perhaps to the Burtons' increasing financial difficulties.

I shall be glad how so[o]ne the jacklet is sent, for by Jan[uar]y I shall be out of jacklet. Your cloth I wrot[e] to you som[e] time a goe I wo[ul]d send you, I co[ul]d got no oportunity till now and wan Col[one]l Wintworth⁶³¹ goes nixt wick and I hope it will goe by him.

All your fri[e]nds is well. The widow Samson⁶³² [is] out of danger. I hope your wine is with you before this. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

109. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 DECEMBER 1734

I have very littell to say to my dear sister only to let you know that I have sent by wan Col[onel] Wentworth⁶³³ that l[e]aves this in 2 or 3 days your piss of linnin. I have allsoe sent by him in a littell packet 25 g[u]ineys – your quarters allowance. The odd twenty five shillin[g]s is for jacklet for yourself which I desire you wo[ul]d lay out that way. When my jacklet is re[a]dy I'll send you a bill for it. The purse the Gould⁶³⁴ is in was a purse of my dear Nancy Persons⁶³⁵ and I know you will vallaw it as it was hers.

Pray send more derections abo[u]t the arms and crest, for the man says he is sure that [it] is no crest that is over the arms, and the crest is to be in the mid[d]ell of the napkin and in the corners of the table cloth, and if they be for a widow, the armes sho[ul]d be in a lozenge for you sayd it was for a lady.⁶³⁶ These things most be so[o]ne answ[e]red.

I can add no more. Goeing just into the co[u]ntery for 2 or 3 day to get reed of a cold. All fri[e]nds well. I am dear sister yours, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/7

110. KATHERINE CONOLLY, LEIXLIP,⁶³⁷ TO JANE BONNELL, BROMFEILD NEAR CHELMSFORD IN ESSEX, 9 DECEMBER 1734

I had my dear sisters at this place of the 25[th] of last month. I came hear last Tu[e]sday to make a visit to Lady Ann Conolly and to stay 2 or 3 nights hear, and to

⁶³¹ Possibly Sir William Wentworth, son of Sir William Wentworth and Isabella Apsley, brother to Thomas Wentworth (1672–1739), 1st earl of Strafford, 1711–39, and uncle to Lady Anne Conolly.

⁶³² See letter no. 107, note 620.

⁶³³ See letter no. 108, note 631.

⁶³⁴ *Lege* gold.

⁶³⁵ Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1715–36).

⁶³⁶ In heraldry the lozenge is a diamond-shaped charge (an object that can be placed on the field of the shield), usually somewhat narrower than it is tall. In modern English and Scottish heraldry the arms of an unmarried woman and of widows are usually shown on a lozenge rather than an escutcheon, without crest or helm.

⁶³⁷ As Katherine Conolly held a life interest in Castletown, William Conolly (1706–54) began purchasing the castle and estate in Leixlip during the 1730s; on 22 January 1731 Katherine Conolly surrendered the manor of Leixlip to William Conolly. It remained the Conollys' Irish residence until Katherine died and her life interest in Castletown ceased: IAA, Castletown papers, E/16/18.

perswead⁶³⁸ her to go [to] Dublin being to lay in⁶³⁹ the begin[n]ing of nixt month. But behold the 3[r]d day affter I was hear she fell ill, only a collick⁶⁴⁰ how ever. I made [her] send the couch⁶⁴¹ to Dublin for the nessecery woman,⁶⁴² but finding her p[er]lines incr[e]ase[d], I sent wan of my sarv[en]ts privitly to the town of Cellbridg[e] 2 miles from this [house] for a poor old woman that was much in repute in the co[u]ntery and had her in the house. Poor woman,⁶⁴³ as she grew worse she asked me if there was no body I co[ul]d send for. I told her I had wan in the house. She was called in and in less than 20 minnets affter she came in to the room she [Lady Ann] was saff[e]ly deliv[e]red of a son,⁶⁴⁴ and both she and the child safe. The child, the poorest littell cr[e]ature you ever saw cartanly⁶⁴⁵ came before its time, but it crays⁶⁴⁶ strong, feeds well, dose nothing but sleep, and is feed 20 times when its asleep.⁶⁴⁷ It was c[h]rist[e]ned emedly⁶⁴⁸ after [birth and] [damaged] called William, but not till I had a promise that if it deyed I wo[ul]d have another William. It is but 6 days old and is growon as big again as it was, soe all the p[e]opell of skill says it will doe well. It was a great providance I was hear or in all human prob[ab]ility both mother and child had bine lost. Now that I am hear I will stay a wick longer. She recovers very well.

You mistak[e] me if you thought I sent you linnin for sheets, for what I have sent was for shifts and aprons. I think there is 20 or 21 yards. I am sure you wo[ul]d think it tow⁶⁴⁹ fine for sheets. I sent by Col[one]l Wintworth⁶⁵⁰ how⁶⁵¹ took the cloth [and] 25 g[u]ineys which is your mon[e]y. Five and twenty shillin[g]s more then your 25 po[un]d your [quarter] allowance[s], and I bid you buy jacklet with the twenty 5 shillin[g]s. But if you want under sheets soe much you had better lay it out that way. The Col[one]l seald⁶⁵² from Dublin last Friday and when he gets to London I am sure wil[l] l[e]ave the cloth and mon[e]y at Mr Hores⁶⁵³ for you.

I have not yet recov[e]red my fright this lady put me in. Adow⁶⁵⁴ my dear sister and beli[e]ve [me I am] most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

⁶³⁸ *Lege* persuade.

⁶³⁹ *Lege* lye-in.

⁶⁴⁰ Severe abdominal pain caused by spasm, obstruction, or distention of any of the hollow viscera, such as the intestines.

⁶⁴¹ *Lege* coach.

⁶⁴² Midwife.

⁶⁴³ Referring to Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁶⁴⁴ William Conolly (1734–7).

⁶⁴⁵ *Lege* certainly.

⁶⁴⁶ *Lege* cries.

⁶⁴⁷ *Recte* awake.

⁶⁴⁸ *Lege* immediately.

⁶⁴⁹ *Lege* too.

⁶⁵⁰ See letter no. 108, note 631.

⁶⁵¹ *Recte* who.

⁶⁵² *Lege* sailed.

⁶⁵³ See letter no. 23, note 22.

⁶⁵⁴ *Lege* adieu.

[PS] My girill⁶⁵⁵ is hear with me and the best nurse in the world both for mother and child. Cousin Samson⁶⁵⁶ recovers very well and I hope will have no bad effects from it. All her famally, or most of them, well settelled, 3 daughters well maryed, 2 of them very well maryed.⁶⁵⁷ The 3[r]d I beli[e]ve not soe well, but when she was maryed [it] was thought a very good ma[t]ch, but its beli[e]ved he is but a bad maniger. Her son maryed Murrys daughter⁶⁵⁸ in the I[s]ll[e] of Man, our old countrey, got 15 or 1600 po[u]nd. 2 younger daughters⁶⁵⁹ to marry. She has taken her son in to the business with her self and they ear in good curcomstances. She is wan of the best womon and manigers in the world.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

111. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 DECEMBER 1734

With these 6 days I have had tow letters from my dear sister of the 4th and 13[th] and have sent the rest to my brother Pearson.⁶⁶⁰ I gave you an account emedetly⁶⁶¹ when Lady Ann C[onolly]⁶⁶² [gave birth] and sences that I wrot[e] to you, I left Layslip and a Tu[e]sday and she well recovered and the child like to doe very well, I thank God.

I have wrot[e] to the post offices of Dublin about Mr Prices⁶⁶³ is [*sic*] frank and when I hear you shall, but poor Mr Manly⁶⁶⁴ has quit[e] lost his memery of all things that hap[p]ens leatly. He is a mallancolly sight and never misses wan day to come to my house wither I am at home or not.

As to the wine, I cannot tell you justly the prise for I buy noon⁶⁶⁵ under 16 or 18 po[u]nd a hogsheed and have not my accounts hear. I know not what prise Mr Samson⁶⁶⁶ sent you nor what he ord[e]red about the duty and frought.⁶⁶⁷ I am glad my jacklet is sent. When it comes to Dublin I shall know.

⁶⁵⁵ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁶⁵⁶ Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764): see letter no. 107, note 620.

⁶⁵⁷ In 1734 her married daughters were Anne (1712–64) who married John McCausland (d. *ante* 1749) in 1728; Rebecca (d. 1763) who married Alexander McClintock (1692–1775) of Drumcar, Co. Louth in 1725; Angel (b. *ante* 1716) who married William Wray (d. *ante* 1731).

⁶⁵⁸ Michael Sampson (b. 1705) married Ellinor Murray (d. 1769) of the Isle of Man.

⁶⁵⁹ There were actually three unmarried daughters, Lettice (b. 1706), Jane (b. 1713) and Mary Anne (Molly) (b. *ante* 1718), but the date of Jane's death is not known. Lettice (b. 1706) married first (unknown first name) Nixon in 1736 and second (again unknown) Hastings; Mary Anne (Molly) (b. *ante* 1718) married firstly James Echlin of Ardquin, Co. Down in 1738 and secondly Stratford Eyre (d. 1767) in 1762.

⁶⁶⁰ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

⁶⁶¹ *Lege* immediately.

⁶⁶² See letter no. 110.

⁶⁶³ Unidentified.

⁶⁶⁴ Isaac Manley (c. 1687–1735), see letter no. 11, note 84.

⁶⁶⁵ *Lege* none.

⁶⁶⁶ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 7, note 56.

⁶⁶⁷ *Lege* freight.

I h[e]ard the mallancolly account of Docter Hamiltons son⁶⁶⁸ but his father did not hear of his fingers and toos⁶⁶⁹ being lost.

Inclosed I have sent you a letter upon Gould and Nisbet for forty wan po[u]nds fortin⁶⁷⁰ shillin[g]s which is thus to be dispose[d] off: for my jacklet [£]22.16.0; to our unfortunate[e] ness Conyngham and her son⁶⁷¹ between them twelve g[u]ineys; to yourself six g[u]ineys – this is for your New Years gift, I wish you meny years of health.

I long to hear if you have got the mon[e]y and cloth I sent by Col[one]l Wentworth⁶⁷² for I hear he is got safe to London.

Sister Jones sarvics and mine attends you. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate,
Ka: Conolly

22–16–0

12– 12–0

06– 06–0

41–14–0 [£]

[PS] You may take off the bill if you pl[e]ases and seall his let[t]er and put it in [a w]rapper or send it as it is for I writ[e] in a hurry [as there is some]wan weting⁶⁷³ for this. Let me hear when you rece[i]ve this.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

112. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 31 DECEMBER 1734

I told my dear sister in my last that if poor Mr Burton⁶⁷⁴ was any better I wo[ul]d not writ[e] last packet. Indeed he was visibell[y] bet[t]er both Thursday and part of yesterday but he was worse in the affternoon, had a restless night, got 2 hours sleep this morning which refreshed him, but the docters thinks he is rather worse than he was any time yesterday. He has got a cough and whesing.⁶⁷⁵ His pules⁶⁷⁶ is still feverish but he sp[e]akes heart[i]ly and has a better oponon⁶⁷⁷ of him self then I have, tho[ugh] I never saw him nor cannot goe up to the big stears⁶⁷⁸ throw⁶⁷⁹ a foollish promise, and the backstears I co[ul]d not be carryed up. This is all the account I can give you of him.

⁶⁶⁸ Unidentified, but referring to the family of John Hamilton: see letter no. 70.

⁶⁶⁹ *Lege* toes.

⁶⁷⁰ *Lege* fourteen.

⁶⁷¹ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) and her son William (Billy) Conyngham (1721–37).

⁶⁷² See letter no. 108, note 631.

⁶⁷³ *Lege* waiting.

⁶⁷⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶⁷⁵ *Lege* wheezing.

⁶⁷⁶ *Lege* pulse.

⁶⁷⁷ *Lege* opinion.

⁶⁷⁸ *Lege* stairs.

⁶⁷⁹ *Lege* through.

My blessing to the boys.⁶⁸⁰ I wish you and them meny hap[p]y years. I am my dear sister, [your] very affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Have you done any thing about the jacket, I wrot[e] to you some time ago.

NLI, MS 41,578/7

⁶⁸⁰ Referring to Francis Pierpont (1721–87) and William (1733–96) Burton, sons of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

SECTION 3
1735-1738

LETTERS 113–170

The letters contained in this section deal with the deaths of William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37) and of his father Williams Conyngham (1698–1738), the heirs to the Conyngham fortune. They also include Katherine's correspondence with her wider family circle, notably with the Corry family, and engage with the marriage of Lady Anne Wentworth (1714–97) to her nephew, William James Conolly (1706–54).

113. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 APRIL 1735

I had my dear sisters last night of the 5[th] and has wrot[e] to my brother Pearson¹ about what you say about his jacklet. When I hear, you shall.

I had a letter from Doctor Hamilton² telling me he has quit thoughts of his standing. I think he is a very deserveing man but I beli[e]ve 500 po[un]d wo[ul]d be spent on it and I am sure its not worth while. At Boncreggy³ they ear still in the same say.

As to Mr Savige,⁴ he has too much bissness to mind yours. I did wanst sp[e]ake to him and will again when I goe to Dublin. He is clarke to Lord Chife Barran Marlly⁵ and I have spoke[n] to him about it. You sho[ul]d writ[e] to Ralph Samson⁶ to goe to Savig as derectly from you and know what he is doing – some thing that he had to sarve the gracesless nephew⁷ with. He wo[ul]d not venter⁸ to doe it but Ralph Samson got [it] done soe he can give a better account then I can.

All hear gives there savices as sister Jones, the wodow Samson⁹ and 2 or 3 cousen Nisbets.¹⁰ Nany Nisbet is well and lives with wan of her brother Alberts daughters that [is] well maryed to a clargy man.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conelly¹¹

NLI, MS 41,578/8

¹ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

² Possibly referring to Rev. Andrew Hamilton (c. 1670–1753), archdeacon of Raphoe 1690.

³ Co. Clare residence of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴ Mr Savige, clerk to the Rt Hon. Thomas Marlay (Marley) (c. 1691–1766), attorney–general of Ireland (1727), chief baron of the exchequer (1730) and from 1742 chief justice of the King's Bench in Ireland. This refers to Jane Bonnell's long running disputes with the King family and with her nephews concerning the Conyngham Limavady, Co. Donegal, estate: Hughes, *Patentee officers*.

⁵ Rt Hon. Thomas Marlay (Marley) (c. 1691–1766).

⁶ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁸ *Lege* venture.

⁹ Jane Sampson (née McCausland) (1685–1764): see letter no. 107, note 620.

¹⁰ Unidentified members of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal: see letter no. 69, note 21.

¹¹ The reverse of this letter contains calculations about coinage.

114. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 APRIL 1735

I had my dear sisters of the 16[th] last packet. I am glad the bill came safe to you, but in the latter end of May or begin[n]ing of June I'll send you the other quarters allow[ance]s which I hope will answer as well for you. The most I say that I unluckley put out some mon[e]y on a morgige¹² which has made me very scarce of mon[e]y till my May rents comes in. Its the forst I ever put out that way and shall be the last, and it was but 815 pound and I was obliged to doe it to sarve a fri[e]nd that wanted the mon[e]y, and soe I took there morgige. And as I have a greater demand on me in London about figers that is makeing for my monymt that I have put up in my new church that I have bu[i]lt;¹³ the church and monymt has and will cost me above 2000 pound. Figures co[ul]d not be dune¹⁴ hear and they come between [£]2 and [£]3 hondred. Wan I have all red¹⁵ payd in London last wick.

As to Boncreggy, I hear every wick and [in] the letter I had last he¹⁶ tells me he had drawan on me for 100 pound to which I gave a very sharp answer and told him after. He had bor[r]owed – to bring his wife¹⁷ from London – [£]250 and [£]250 when he had lick¹⁸ to have bine ar[r]ested in Dublin, both [of] which noots I gave to him and her when I was at there house.¹⁹ I wond[e]red with what [*sic*].

You inquired some time a goe for the widow Peggy Hamilton.²⁰ She is prit[t]y well. I sent her some palley²¹ drops as you desired me. I expect my brother Pearson in town to morrow or Satterday. I'll tell him he may expect his jacklet so[o]ne. Mrs Burton²² has promised her husband she will get out of bed nixt wick. I thought Mrs Pagit²³ had been deed.²⁴ She wrot[e] to me some years agoe to bring her over and that she was fit for a governess to a young lady, but I allways thought her but an idell vein woman. I did hear leatly from poor ness Conyngham.

I sent for Mr Savige senas he came from surcirt²⁵ but has not seen him. But yesterday I spoke to Lord Chife Barron Marley to home²⁶ Savige is [his] clark, and

¹² *Lege* mortgage.

¹³ The monument erected by Katherine Conolly in memory of her husband.

¹⁴ *Recte* done, meaning carved.

¹⁵ *Lege* already.

¹⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁷ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁸ *Lege* likely.

¹⁹ See letter no. 87.

²⁰ Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1685–1756): see letter no. 107, note 619.

²¹ *Lege* palsy. Palsy drops: see letter no. 88, note 342.

²² Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

²³ Unidentified. While it became more formalised in the nineteenth century, the role of the 'governess' was central in the education of young females in the eighteenth century. It was frequently the only employment option for young ladies who found themselves in straitened financial circumstances. Recommendation was by word of mouth and personal references: see Ruth Brandon, *Other people's daughters, the life and times of the governess* (London, 2008).

²⁴ *Lege* dead.

²⁵ *Lege* circuit.

²⁶ *Lege* whom.

he promised me to sp[e]ake to him. I hear Mr French²⁷ is landed last wick from England. I have spoke to Ralph Samson to weat on him and know whats dowing. You wear wrang in employing those 2 men.

NLI, MS 41,578/8

115. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 JUNE 1735

Its longer then my usell²⁸ time senas I wrot[e] to my dear sister but thank God it was accasioned by nothing but laseyness.²⁹ I sho[ul]d have begone my northern j[o]urney about this time, but by the 5[th] or 6[th] of nixt month I expect Mr Conolly and I have a mind to see him and give up his sweet babys³⁰ to him, for indeed they ear delightfull childrin. God bless them and spear³¹ them to him.

My brother Pearson³² writ[e]s to me that your damask is not come from the bl[e]ach and he has pay[e]d but part of the mon[e]y. It shall be sent by the forst safe hand derected for you at Mr Hores.

My sister Jones³³ is working you an apron; its fine cambrick with a prity border of ch[a]ine–sti[t]ch. All her one work except a needll[e]full or tow my girill³⁴ did beca[u]se she wo[ul]d soe³⁵ some of it. She doth not love work for she is so unsettled – she will not be constant to any thing. As to [needle] work, she can doe any thing she sees but I will not let her work much for fear of her eyes, tho[ugh] I thank God they ear very well except [when] she gets cold. She writ[e]s well, dancesis³⁶ well, and plays well on the spinet.³⁷ All these as well for her age as any child in Dublin which is a wonder consid[e]ring how much she is in the co[un]tury. Soe I have given you an account of her perfections. Her fa[u]lts I say nothing off, for, opon my word she has not meny and she is pit³⁸ up as a pattron³⁹ to all the girills in town. Her poor mother leys still in a miserable condition. This is [all] I shall say but that all your fri[e]nds is well, and that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/8

²⁷ Robert French, Jane Bonnell's legal counsel: see letter no. 44, note 512.

²⁸ *Lege* usual.

²⁹ *Lege* laziness.

³⁰ Referring to Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and William (1734–36), the children of William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

³¹ *Lege* spare.

³² Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

³³ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

³⁴ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³⁵ *Lege* sew.

³⁶ *Lege* dances.

³⁷ *Lege* spinet. A spinet is a smaller type of harpsichord or other keyboard instrument, such as a piano or organ. Katherine is here identifying the 'education' and accomplishments required of a young lady of Molly's social status in eighteenth-century Ireland: see Gabrielle M. Ashford, 'Childhood: studies in the history of children in eighteenth-century Ireland' (unpublished PhD thesis, St Patrick's College (Dublin City University), 2012).

³⁸ *Lege* put.

³⁹ *Lege* pattern, something worthy of imitation.

116. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, BROMFIELD,
CHEMLMSFORD, ESSEX, 23 SEPTEMBER 1735

I have tow letters from my dear sister, wan by Mr Hudson⁴⁰ of the 1st, the other of the 15[th]. As to Mr Hudson it is not in my power to doe him any sarvices with the Commis[sio]nrs.⁴¹ I have done all I co[ul]d as sp[e]aking to them all and writing a generall letter to the board. This I am sure he must be sencable off beca[u]se he allways saw my letters.

As to the damask, I think its sent to Chestere⁴² under the care of Ald[er]man Murry⁴³ derved for you at Mr Hores. I hope it will goe safe. For now when a lord l[i]e[utenan]t⁴⁴ is comeing there is no such thing as any body goeing to London.

I shall be glad to hear you lick your new places of abode⁴⁵ tho[ugh] I wish you had contiued whear you ear this winter, but that cannot be helped now. I expect Mr Conolly and lady⁴⁶ every day and has a sarvant re[a]dy in Dublin to bring word from Ringsend⁴⁷ and shall be there [in Dublin] by the time they land, tho[ugh] I intend goeing the latter end of the wick, so[o]nner if they come.

Sister Jones is here and had yours by Mr Hudson. She will writ[e] so[o]ne to you. All your fri[e]nds I know is well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Sister Jones bids me tell you that she toke care the damask sho[ul]d be no expence – nather fraught⁴⁸ nor box but what the carrying to London – and that cannot be much. Tell me in your nixt wither you wo[ul]d rather have the qu[a]rter [allowance] now dew you payd now or the nixt qu[a]rter and it together?

NLI, MS 41,578/8

117. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 11 OCTOBER 1735

I had my dear sisters of the 29[th] Sep[tem]b[er] last packet. I long to hear how you like your new habbitaton which you sayd I sho[ul]d hear from you as so[o]ne as you wear settled.

My brother Pearson⁴⁹ is very une[a]sey that you ear not payd for the jackalet you sent him. He and I longs to hear you have got the damask; he payd for the damask and bl[e]aching 12 g[u]ineys which you must deduct out of the jacklet. He has lost the account

⁴⁰ Unidentified, but probably an acquaintance of Jane Bonnell who was seeking patronage through her Conolly family connection.

⁴¹ The Irish revenue commissioners.

⁴² *Lege* Chester.

⁴³ Alderman Andrew Murray (d. 1763), lord mayor of Dublin, 1753–54, and master of the Blue Coat Hospital.

⁴⁴ In 1735 the lord lieutenant was Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765): *ODNB*; *DIB*.

⁴⁵ See letter no. 105.

⁴⁶ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴⁷ Ringsend, Dublin, the point of entry for passengers arriving from Holyhead, Wales.

⁴⁸ *Lege* neither freight.

⁴⁹ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

of the jackalet – he says it was as he thinks above 20 pounds or wan and twenty [and] some odd mon[e]y. Pray settell with him and, out of the bill [for] this noot I have inclosed, take what my brother [Pearson] owes you, all but the 12 g[u]ineys. They must be reckoned English I beli[e]ve beca[us]e the jackalet is soe, but this you know better then I doe. And pay yourself your one⁵⁰ 25 po[u]nd dew last August, and what remeans keep in your hands for me. Only take 5 po[u]nds for to help you on your removeing to your new habitat[i]on, for it most be an expenas to you.

I wrot[e] to you some time agoe to know wither you wo[ul]d have this quarters allowances payd now or when your half years was dew, but not hearing from you senas makes me send it now thinking you may want it. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] All your fri[e]nds ear well. Sister Jones is une[e]sey to hear of your get[t]ing the damask. You sho[ul]d writ[e] if it be not left at Mr Hores to inquire at the carryers inn for it. Ald[e]rman Murry⁵¹ of Chester by my sister Jones was to give the wagener⁵² a shilling if he left it at Mr Hores in Fleet Street, but she says that is nothing to you. She will pay that.

Hary Conyngham⁵³ is landed. Lo[o]kes very ill. He says he says he has not bine well these 5 or 6 months past. When you have rece[i]ved the mon[e]y, pray make up the account of the whole that I may sattisfey my brother⁵⁴ and say what the jacklet come to, for by that he most pay me the remender. Tell me how I am to derset to you.

NLI, MS 41,578/8

118. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 NOVEMBER 1735

I had wrot[e] to my dear sister last wick but sister Jones told me she had wrot[e] and as this is a time of year I doe not care for being put out of my one⁵⁵ way, tho[ugh] by haveing Lady Ann⁵⁶ hear I was obliged to be hear, yet it has not bine e[a]sey to me.

When you wrot[e] last you had not got mine with wan inclosed to Gould and Nisbet. Had I not thought that on your removeing you might have wanted mon[e]y I had not sent you a bill, but brother Pearson was une[a]sey about it, and as I sent you a bill of fifty po[u]nds that you might take out your one 25 po[u]nd [allowance] and then settell for his jacklet and what he payd for the damask, for you can only settell that, he haveing mislayd your not[e]. 3 packets came in last night, as yet I have noe letter from you. If I doe before I seall this I'll let you know.

⁵⁰ *Lege* own.

⁵¹ Ald. Andrew Murray (d. 1763), see letter no. 116, note 43.

⁵² *Lege* wagoner, meaning carrier.

⁵³ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁴ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

⁵⁵ *Lege* own. Referring to the anniversary of the death of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729) in October 1729.

⁵⁶ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

We ear all well, which is all the news I have to tell you. As to Boncreggy⁵⁷ I hear nothing but of her miserable condition. He is not yet come to parl[ia]ment but will when he can. He is to be pityed for she is taking the re[a]dy way to kill the 2 fine boys⁵⁸ in haveing them sle[e]p with her in a stove,⁵⁹ and they ear taken up as if dip[p]ed in a river. Both has got colds and Willy in a high fever, soe that his life was dispeard⁶⁰ off. He is now recovered but wack⁶¹ still. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I did not know I wrot[e] on this scrap of paper till I had half done my letter. Just now I had yours of the 22[nd] of last month but have no time to answer any perticklers of it. I am glad you got the bill. Keep the remender of the bill till you get my jacklet and I'll send the remender with your next allow[a]nc[e]s, till then.

NLI, MS 41,578/8

119. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 NOVEMBER 1735

Its a great while senas I wrot[e] to my dear sister and by the last packets I had yours of the 8[th]. I had not bine soe long sillent but sister Jones sayed she had wrot[e] to you and soe I did not. I have settled the jackalet account with Mr Pearson, the 12 g[u]ineys for the damask and 9 I have got I think is just right. I shall be glad my jackalet wo[ul]d come so[o]ne for I shall not have [enough] to last to Xmass. The so[o]nner it comes the better. You may dertect your letters under Mr Conollys⁶² cover – I shall get them a day so[o]nner.

Mr Burton⁶³ is not come nor when he will I cannot tell. She⁶⁴ is soe ill and her fits soe vallant⁶⁵ he wanst had thoughts of comeing away unknowen to her. But she has discov[e]red it as he thinks and now will take nothing but what he gives her. Her life is most miserable and all those about her, for its impossible to pl[e]ase her a minnet. I am sure I pity them all.

I did tell you [Ralph] and Jeny Samson had got another son.⁶⁶ The eldest had like to have deyed last wick with the me[a]salls and 4 teeth a coting⁶⁷ at the same time. He is now out of danger. The 2 littell wans at Layslip⁶⁸ has bine very ill with

⁵⁷ Buncraggy, Co. Clare, the country residence of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his wife Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁹ Meaning a very hot room.

⁶⁰ *Lege* despaired.

⁶¹ *Lege* weak.

⁶² William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744): see letter no. 118.

⁶⁴ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁶⁵ *Lege* violent.

⁶⁶ Ralph (1693–1763) and Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85), and Michael Sampson (b. 1735): see letter no. 100, note 530.

⁶⁷ *Lege* cutting.

⁶⁸ *Lege* Leixlip. These were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and William (1734–37) Conolly, children of William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

coughs, cold and a favor.⁶⁹ Nothing wo[ul]d stay on their stomacks for 2 or 3 days and wan day the boy did not suck. It gre[i]ved me much to think I sho[ul]d live to berry⁷⁰ another William Conolly, but I thank God the account I have yesterday and this [day] gives a good account of them both, so I hope they will doe very well.

You aske about Roger Jones;⁷¹ all the account I can give of him is selling,⁷² and Raph Samson⁷³ and he has bine in a treaty about it this 12 months but nothing finished and [the] unfortunate[e] Roger still paying int[e]rest. The truth is I beli[e]ve Samson has not the mon[e]y, tho[ugh] he still put off all other purchesers and now I beli[e]ve it wo[ul]d be hard to get any.

I am sor[r]y poor ness Conyngham is obliged to boord,⁷⁴ but if her brother and sister⁷⁵ comes from Bath I hope that will be over. As to her idell husband,⁷⁶ I can give you no account of him but what I hear, [that things] is not better. As to his northern estate,⁷⁷ I did not hear that its sessed⁷⁸ by any collect[or]. He was bound for wan which brock⁷⁹ some years agoe. I beli[e]ve the deet⁸⁰ was payd for the collect[o]r sayd he had borrowed the mon[e]y for him that was the Kings and he wo[ul]d show him, but as it was not a 1000 po[u]nd, its I beli[e]ve settled long agoe.

Hary⁸¹ is fallan out with me beca[u]se I refused to lend him five hondred pound and [he] says he will see me no more and I have re[a]son to beli[e]ve it, for I have stra[i]ned my ankell 3 days a goe and he has not come to see me but has sent twist. I sent him word I wond[e]red he wo[ul]d not come as all the rest of [my] fri[e]nds did. I writ[e] this with my foot up on a stooll and this day can goe prity e[a]sey with very littell help. You may be sure I am not very bad when I writ[e] soe much. I am most affectionate[ly], yours Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/8

120. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 2 DECEMBER 1735

I had my dear sister of the 17[th] of last month and had wrot[e] so[o]nner but that sister Jones wrot[e] the day I was going to writ[e] and 2 letters at wanst is too much.

⁶⁹ *Lege* fever.

⁷⁰ *Lege* bury.

⁷¹ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁷² When Richard Jones died in 1729 his widow Mary (1675–1765) passed the estate in her hands to her son Roger (d. 1747), and this refers to family disquiet concerning this arrangement: see letters nos 68 and 69.

⁷³ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

⁷⁴ *Lege* board.

⁷⁵ It is unclear which sister Katherine is referring to here, it may be either Elizabeth (b. c. 1701) who married Richard Hockenhull, or Diana (b. c. 1703) who married Sir Thomas Trollop (b. c. 1691), or Anne (1706–72) who married Denzil Onslow (b. c. 1700).

⁷⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁷⁷ The Newtown Limavady, Co. Donegal estate Williams Conyngham inherited through his uncle William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁷⁸ *Lege* seized.

⁷⁹ *Lege* broke.

⁸⁰ *Lege* debt.

⁸¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

I have settled with brother Pearson about the jacklet and damask, soe that affair is over. I payd sister Jones the half crown, she was not willing to take it, but its payd.

I pity poor ness Conyngham much and about Xmass shall send some small present between her and her son.⁸² She has the greatest brut[e] to her husband⁸³ liveing and I was told this day that hardly a gentellman will keep him compeny, but he sits up till six or seven a clock every morning and never rises till 5 or 6 at night with the lowest wrachs⁸⁴ he can pick up. I am told he is goeing to commence a law shout⁸⁵ with me for my Welch esteat⁸⁶ which my dear husband left me, and says it was his father and mothers and he will spend d[o]ubell the worth of it but it shall be his. I say I can spend as much as he. It may and doth give me tr[o]uble to be soe used by an ungreatefull brute, and more soe beca[u]se I have settled it in my will to pay part of my de[b]ts and legeseys, soe if he will begine I wo[ul]d rather it was in my life time then to plauge my exe[cu]ters. He wo[ul]d strip me of my fortune and Hary⁸⁷ of my mon[e]y. But he [Harry] is come to himself and is sor[r]y for the bease⁸⁸ letters he wrot[e] me and doss me the favour to come to my house and dine hear as usell. That is over for this time. Now I am not cruelly used and I am sure I never desarved it from e[i]ther of them had they behaved as they ought to doe.

I hope my jacklet is sent a way. I shall want it so[o]ne. Pray writ[e] to your fri[e]nd in London, I mean Mr Smith, that if his brother Mr Darby Clark⁸⁹ did not writ[e] to him for a Common Prayer Book for Miss Burten,⁹⁰ that he wo[ul]d get me such a wan as I mention in the inclosed and pay him for me. But Mr Clark says he wo[ul]d send [it] to him which I beli[e]ve he forgot. He is out of town or I wo[ul]d aske him.

Say nothing about what I writ[e] about my Welch esteat, I'll writ[e] when I know more. Mr Conollys childrin⁹¹ has bine both ill but now prity well. They both had coughs and favrish and teeth all at wanst. My girill⁹² is well and rises every morning before day for fear my stra[i]ned foot sho[ul]d be dres[e]d by any body but her. Its much better but swells and wack,⁹³ no great p[a]ine but the cramp comes in [ms damaged] [and] torments me. I [ms damaged]

NLI, MS 41,578/8

⁸² Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) and William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

⁸³ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁸⁴ *Lege* wretches.

⁸⁵ *Lege* suit.

⁸⁶ The Welsh estates brought into the family through the marriage of Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1673–1710) to Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) in 1696: see letter no. 65, note 711.

⁸⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81): see letter no. 119.

⁸⁸ *Lege* base.

⁸⁹ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole, Fermanagh, see letter no. 90, note 375; and Darby Clark, letter no. 40, note 458.

⁹⁰ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁹¹ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and William (1734–7), children of William Conolly (1706–54): see letter no. 119.

⁹² Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁹³ *Lege* weak.

121. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 16 DECEMBER 1735

I have tow letters from my dear sister senas I wrot[e] to you. I have little now to say. They came together – I mean your 2 letters. My ankell is very well and I have got on my spaw⁹⁴ and [am] very well. I have sent your letter to the Bushop.⁹⁵

Yesterday the inclosed letter came to me with a purse dertected to you which I will send when I have an op[p]ertunaty. Its well kneet⁹⁶ but I doe not think it worth sending soe far, but you shall have it.

Pegy Hamilton⁹⁷ lives in town and is very well. As to my jacklet I wish it wear come for I shall want it so[o]ne. I doe not remember what ballance was in your hands. I think some thing about a level po[u]nd. I will so[o]ne send you a bill for the remender and your one⁹⁸ mon[e]y, and a small present for poor ness Conyngham. It is not much I can doe, not neer what I co[ul]d wish to doe, for I have meny demands.

Sister Jones is well and all your fri[e]nds. I inclose this to Col[one]l Cornwallas⁹⁹ that left this leatly. I will writ[e] again if I can before I l[e]ave this for I intend goeing to Castelltown before Xmass day soe a short letter most now sarve being hurried. Frank Burten¹⁰⁰ is not yet come. When ever he sp[e]akes of comeing she¹⁰¹ falls into a fit. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/8

**122. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO [GEORGE BUBB DODINGTON],¹⁰²
16 DECEMBER 1735**

Sir, I had 2 packets a goe the faveur of yours of the 28[th] of November, long before that your affair¹⁰³ was in the House of Commons. When I h[e]ard it was to be mentioned I a[s]sure you sir I was not neglect[t]full of it. I sent to my fri[e]nds both in town and co[u]ntery – for my nephew Conolly¹⁰⁴ and some more of my fri[e]nds was out of town – but came time enough to doe you[r] sarvics, and I am trully glad to tell you it went as you and your fri[e]nds co[ul]d wish.

You may depend I shall ever have a true regard for every wan that belongs to your unkell Dodinton¹⁰⁵ for whom my dear Mr Conolly¹⁰⁶ had such a regard. I had and

⁹⁴ Katherine is referring to drinking bottled German spa water for her health.

⁹⁵ Possibly Arthur Price, bishop of Meath, see letter no. 139, note 326.

⁹⁶ *Lege* knit: see letter no. 127.

⁹⁷ Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1685–1756), see letter no. 107, note 619.

⁹⁸ *Lege* own.

⁹⁹ Either Maj. Gen. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76), sons of Charles Cornwallis, 4th Baron Cornwallis of Eye and Lady Charlotte Butler.

¹⁰⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁰¹ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹⁰² George Bubb Dodington, 1st Baron Melcombe (1691–1762), Clerk of the Pells in the Irish Exchequer.

¹⁰³ The emoluments of the clerkship of the pells: *Conolly Archive*, p. 116.

¹⁰⁴ William Conolly (1706–54).

¹⁰⁵ George Dodington (*c.* 1662–1720) was a whig politician, chief secretary for Ireland, 1707–8; MP for Charlemont, 1707–13, in the Irish House of Commons; and an MP at Westminster, 1705–20. He left his estate to his nephew George Bubb, 1st Baron Melcombe (1691–1762), who assumed the surname of Dodington: *HoP: 1690–1715; HIP*.

¹⁰⁶ William Conolly (1662–1729).

allways shall have a ple[a]sure when in my power to sarve you, but as my power is fare short of my inclanat[i]on (soone) to sarve my fri[e]nds, I shall be sillent and give you no further tr[o]uble then to as[s]ur[e] you I am s[i]r with great respect, your most obed[i]ant humbl[e] sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

TCD, Ms 3974–84/29

123. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 JANUARY 1735[/36]

I had not bine so long of writing to my dear sister but sister Jones wrot[e] last wick and I have bine in a hurry senas I came to town. I have had senas I wrot[e] 2 letters from you, the forst of the 5[th], the other of the 12[th]. I am glad the bill came soe se[a]ssonably to you. Co[ul]d I do more I wo[ul]d, but I can not. I have meny, meny, to give a littell to.

As to Mrs Clark,¹⁰⁷ its impossible for me to doe any thing in it for such things ear never done with out pettitions or memoralls or some thing of this nature. I know a good many of the councell¹⁰⁸ but they can doe nothing with out some [petition or memorial] to speake opon, for a triffell cannot be got out of the concordatam¹⁰⁹ without vast aplacaton. This is the truth as I tell you and if she have any fr[e]ind to send such a memorall too and they will let me know, I will then doe her what sarvices I can.

I have not yet teasted¹¹⁰ the jacklet but shall in a day. I wish you wo[ul]d make up the account of the last bill [I] sent you for I kept no copy of it. All your fri[e]nds ear well and often inquires for you. Old Ben Parry¹¹¹ dyed sud[d]enly a Tu[e]sday night. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/8

124. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 FEBRUARY 1735[/36]

Last night I had my dear sisters of the 26[th] Jan[ua]ry and as to not hearing from me I can not tell now [what] that matter is, but sister Jones wrot[e] wanst and I wrot[e] twist. In wan of my letters I told you I co[ul]d get nothing done for Mrs Clark¹¹² except she put in a pittion¹¹³ or memor[i]all set[t]ing forth some sarvicesis or merret¹¹⁴ and if she have any fri[e]nd in Ierland to give [it] in to the Lord

¹⁰⁷ Unidentified; probably an acquaintance of Jane Bonnell's in Dublin for whom Katherine was trying to obtain a pension.

¹⁰⁸ The Irish privy council.

¹⁰⁹ Refers to a policy of 'state paupers' whereby those who make up the political nation have, when in need, a claim to public support, which should be given them as their due with no loss of rank or citizen rights. In the case of Irish beneficiaries this pension was paid from the Concordatum fund established by Charles I and later charged to the Irish civil list: Elizabeth Mavor, *The ladies of Llangollen, a study in romantic friendship* (London, 1971), p. 67.

¹¹⁰ *Lege* tasted.

¹¹¹ Unidentified; probably a tenant or family retainer personally known to Jane and Katherine.

¹¹² Unidentified: see letter no. 123.

¹¹³ *Lege* petition.

¹¹⁴ *Lege* services or merit.

L[ieutenant]t¹¹⁵ and councell. I wo[ul]d then sp[e]ake to as meny of the councell as I knew, for I know no other way she can have any thing out of the concordatam, and if she gets 20 or 30 po[un]d it is as much as is generally given. All this I wrot[e] to you [remainder of first page missing].

My last to you was abo[u]t a fortnight a goe as I remember, my sister Jones [letter] a wick before that. I wrot[e] to you in wan letter to send me the account of the 70 po[un]d for I had kept no account of it, I am at a loss how it was.

I hear nothing of Miss Burtons prayer book yet.¹¹⁶ Her mother¹¹⁷ is now under sallavation by chancr¹¹⁸ in takeing quick silver¹¹⁹ for swellings she had in her neck and under her arms which to[o]ke this turn. She and every body thinks it will doe her sarvice. She spits such rotten curroption that its hardly to be indured, has had but wan fit senas and that was a most distracted wan. All ways comes from fret[t]ing for mer[e] triffells.

Lady Ann C[onolly] has bine this wick at Layslip.¹²⁰ The nurse was to l[e]ave the girills¹²¹ and she went to stay till the child¹²² was well used to her new made, but they come this wick. I have made this a longer letter then I intended. All your fri[e]nds ear well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I writ[e] in great hurry, the packet to goe out.

NLI, MS 41,578/9

125. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 MARCH 1735/[36]

Last night I had my dear sisters and am much tr[o]ubled to find your cough and disorders continues soe long. In your last you mentioned you had got a cough but I was in hopes you had got rid of it ear this. We have had such we[a]ther that the best constetutons¹²³ suffers by it.

I have sent you a bill on Mr Gould for 30 po[un]d. I send you the 5 po[un]d over your allowances on account of your illness, I wish sencerly you may have no accasion for it on that scour.¹²⁴ As to Mrs Clarks affair,¹²⁵ I have spoke[n] to severall and it has bine mentioned to the duck¹²⁶ but wither any thing worth while will be got I

¹¹⁵ Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765).

¹¹⁶ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37): see letter no. 120.

¹¹⁷ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

¹¹⁸ *Lege* cancer.

¹¹⁹ Mercurial salivation was a common medical practice. Given its density, the internal administration of mercury was believed to assist in the evacuation of bad humors. Unfortunately, physicians misconstrued the symptoms of mercury poisoning such as excessive salivation as signs of its efficacy.

¹²⁰ *Lege* Leixlip, the residence of Lady Anne (1714–97) and William Conolly (1706–54).

¹²¹ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and Jane Conolly (1736–99).

¹²² Jane Conolly (1736–99); for ‘made’ *lege* ‘maid’.

¹²³ *Lege* constitutions.

¹²⁴ *Lege* score.

¹²⁵ Unidentified: see letters nos 123, 124.

¹²⁶ *Lege* duke; 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765), lord lieutenant.

can not say. I have bine soe hurried I had not time to writ[e] to you, which I bid sister Jones acquaint¹²⁷ you with the case of my not writing.

As to the garlick,¹²⁸ it has done my brother Person¹²⁹ and some other gentell men more good then I can express, both for collick and rumitisam, and Raph Samson¹³⁰ says he is sure he never recov[e]red but for it in his rumitison and I know some has taken it for the asthma¹³¹ with good success. They take a clove of the garlick, a littell champed¹³² or bru[i]sed in a spo[o]n with a littell watter, swallows it down and drinks a littell watter affter it; fasts about an houre, but most chouses¹³³ to take it goeing to bed. Whear they ear very ill they take it both night and morning – or any time of the day – a clove or 2 bru[i]sed and put in a glass of sack.¹³⁴ I have seen give present [?] etc in the gravall.¹³⁵ Some boyles¹³⁶ it in posit¹³⁷ drink. It will brack¹³⁸ the milk it self into as clire whay.¹³⁹

I shall long to hear from you if better and soe pray writ[e] so[o]ne to me for I shall be une[a]sey till I hear. I have some old franks by me. Mr Conolly¹⁴⁰ is both leasey¹⁴¹ and unwilling to give soe meny as is asked. I shall add no more but best wishes for your health and am my dear sisters, your ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I shall send you some letters when I want other franks derved to Bromfield.

NLI, MS 41,578/9

126. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 MARCH 1736

I had my dear sisters short letter of the 15[th] yesterday with 4 packets that came in together and am pl[e]ased to hear your cough is any way better. I long to hear it is over with you for its a terable disorder. I have had a sevear cold, its now better, but my girill¹⁴² has a very bad cold and cough which she is too subiect to, she being very thin. I make her drink assis milk¹⁴³ which allways agrees with her. She is allways

¹²⁷ *Lege* acquaint.

¹²⁸ Garlic (*Allium sativum*). Because it contains allicin and other sulphur compounds, garlic has antibiotic, antibacterial and antimycotic actions and was widely used as a medicine during the eighteenth century: Biljana Bauer Petrovska, 'Extracts from the history and medical properties of garlic' in *Pharmacogn Review*, 4:7 (2010), pp 106–10.

¹²⁹ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹³⁰ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

¹³¹ *Lege* asthma.

¹³² To bite on or grind with the teeth.

¹³³ *Lege* chooses.

¹³⁴ Sack, a strong, rough, dry Spanish wine (in French *vin sec*), and usually sweetened and mixed with spice and mulled or burnt.

¹³⁵ The debris which is formed from a fragmented kidney stone: *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine* (Detroit, 2008).

¹³⁶ *Lege* boils.

¹³⁷ *Lege* posset, a hot drink of milk curdled with wine or ale and often spiced.

¹³⁸ *Lege* break.

¹³⁹ *Lege* clear whey.

¹⁴⁰ William Conolly (1706–54).

¹⁴¹ *Lege* lazy.

¹⁴² Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

¹⁴³ *Lege* asses milk: see letter no. 78, note 168.

spr[igh]tly and has no bad stomach, soe, when the we[a]ther is good, about the middel of Aprill, I'll goe to Castelltown and make her rid[e] every good day.

My brother and sister Pearson is still here. Tho[ugh] he has bine twist vomited, wanst blistered and blooded¹⁴⁴ [and] taken 2 or 3 dossis of phicik,¹⁴⁵ he still compla[i]ns of a gid[d]yness and an odd disorder in his heed when he stands or walks. He has bine 2 or 3 times to take the ear¹⁴⁶ but still he compla[i]ns of his heed. He is chirfull, sleeps well and eats well. This is all the account I can give of him and my sister is much better then I ever thought to see her, soe his illness has roused her and done her great good.

I long to hear you have got the last letter of the 19[th] with a bill of [£]66.17.6 which I had from Mr Alld[er]man Curtiss.¹⁴⁷ I wo[ul]d have sent it over in cash rather then have [money] drawn haveing very littell mon[e]y in Gould's hands, but I durst trust no body that was goeing with it. I am une[a]sy about it till I hear from you that you have got it.

Sister Jones, brother and sister Pearson desire me to say something thats kind to you from them. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/9

127. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 MAY 1736

I had my dear sisters of the 7[th] yesterday and can not imagine what is become of all the letters I writ[e]. I never let your letters ley unansw[e]red and I wrot[e] you 3 times in Apr[i]ll – the 8[th], the 15[th] and the 30[th], and sister Jones writ which I included in wan of mine. She is very well at Dollinstown¹⁴⁸ whear she will stay till I goe to Castelltown, and wither I shall goe there or to Beamore¹⁴⁹ nixt wick I have not determined.

My brother¹⁵⁰ came to town last Monday prity well, but still some disorder in his heed by times, but in the mean¹⁵¹ I think him better every day. He bids me tell you he is ashamed he has not wrot[e] to you but he hopes you beli[e]ve its not [for] want of true regard for you.

I have sent you by wan belonging to the duck of Dorsets¹⁵² famally that goes off as so[o]ne as the wind will let him, the purse that the widow Jeny Hamilton¹⁵³ sent

¹⁴⁴ Purging, bleeding and induced vomiting were the standard medical treatments of the eighteenth century.

¹⁴⁵ *Lege*, physick.

¹⁴⁶ *Lege* air.

¹⁴⁷ Alderman Thomas Curtis (d. 1736), lord mayor of Dublin, 1721–2, sat on the board of aldermen of Dublin corporation to his death in 1736: see Rosa M. Gilbert, Sir John T. Gilbert, John Francis Weldrick (eds), *Calendar of ancient records of Dublin: in the possession of the municipal corporation of that city* (19 vols, Dublin, 1889–1944), vii, 188.

¹⁴⁸ Dolanstown, Co. Meath, the residence of Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

¹⁴⁹ Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the Pearson country residence.

¹⁵⁰ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹⁵¹ *Lege* main.

¹⁵² Lionel Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765), lord lieutenant of Ireland.

¹⁵³ Unidentified, but possibly a daughter of Rev. Andrew Hamilton (1669–1753), archdeacon of Raphoe and his wife Sarah Anne (*née* Conynghame), daughter of Henry Conynghame of Castle Conyngham: see also letters nos 121 and 211.

you last winter. I have put in it 25 g[u]ineys – your May quarter [allowance] and the odd twenty five shillin[g]s you most lay out in jacket for yourself. I allsoe put in some fine threed,¹⁵⁴ my threed womon being deed.¹⁵⁵ I am quit[e] out [of thread], for now instead of buying 4 or 5 pound at a time I buy by ounce. I have derected¹⁵⁶ the purse to Mr Hores and wrot[e] to you¹⁵⁷ to send it to you by some safe hand.

I have received Miss Burton's¹⁵⁸ prayer book. I like it very well and [so] doth she. I shall be glad to know what it cost and when you have payd for it, what or if any thing remeans of mine in your hands, for I have not now any mon[e]y in England and I think I have over drawn Gould and Nisbet 5 or 6 po[u]nds for the figers¹⁵⁹ I have made for your brother and my self that is to be put up in my church in the co[u]ntery whear I have erected a han[d]some monymnt and has bine obliged to bu[i]ld the church quite new open¹⁶⁰ that account, which altogether – church and monymt – has cost me 2000 po[u]nd at least.

I shall tr[o]uble you no more but to as[s]ure you I am with great truth my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/9

128. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 MAY 1736

By the packets that come in a Satterday I had my dear sisters of the 14[th]. I am sure its not my fa[u]lt if my letters doe not come to your hands for I writ[e] at least wanst in ten or 12 days, some times offtner. I wrot[e] to you the 14th. I had the account of Miss Burtons¹⁶¹ prayer book in your last letter, I like it very well.

I think the lat[t]er end of this wick to goe to Beamore¹⁶² for 8 or ten days. They ear now I think resolved to goe to Bath and stay a year. I hope it will doe them both sarvices. I am sure they ear both in a bad steat of health. He is much better, but few days without some compla[i]nt. He went hom[e] last wick and I promised him to goe this. Wan of my cousen Currys daughter¹⁶³ has bine with me this winter and is to goe home to morrow or nixt day, which has kept me in town or I had gone last wick there.

I had a letter from Frank Burton¹⁶⁴ yesterday which I inclose to you for its soe very miserable an account that I can not writ[e] it.

¹⁵⁴ *Lege* thread.

¹⁵⁵ *Lege* dead.

¹⁵⁶ *Lege* directed.

¹⁵⁷ *Recte* him.

¹⁵⁸ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37): see letter no. 120.

¹⁵⁹ *Lege* figures; the monumental sculptures of Katherine (1662–1752) and William (1662–1729) Conolly Katherine had commissioned for the church in Celbridge: see letter no. 114.

¹⁶⁰ *Lege* upon.

¹⁶¹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37): see letters nos 120 and 124.

¹⁶² Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the Pearson's country residence.

¹⁶³ Either Martha (Matty) (1704/5–64), Sarah (Sally) (1709–79), Mary (Molly) (1710–74) or Elizabeth (Betty) (1715–91) Corry, daughters of Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 72, note 94.

¹⁶⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

Poor Jeny Samson is like to burry all her children. I think soe licky¹⁶⁵ a healthy father and mother never had soe rotten miserable cratars,¹⁶⁶ fine han[d]som childrin till they come to 3, 4 or 5 years old, then they dey¹⁶⁷ like soe meny rotten sheep. She burryed 2 last year, wan about a month a goe, wan last wick and e[i]ther 2 or 3 now, soe ill that noe body thinks they can live a month. She has burryed six out of a leven,¹⁶⁸ and her eldest boy and 2 girills of 4 and 5 year old will not doe.¹⁶⁹ Her eldest girill¹⁷⁰ never was a healthy child; she is now towards a women but a poor sickl[e]y cratar. Soe I can give you but a sad account of our kindred.

As I have made this a mallancolly letter I'll add no more but I went the other day to Refarnham.¹⁷¹ I think Mr Worth¹⁷² in a bad steat of health – very paralectick. They say his eldest daughter Jeny¹⁷³ is goeing to be married, but I know noe more of it than town talk.

If I have not tyerd you I have myself. Have you got the 25 g[u]ineys, the purse¹⁷⁴ and threed I sent by wan of the duck¹⁷⁵ of Dorsets popell? It was dedercted to be left at Mr Hores and I wrot[e] to him by it, soe make the proper inquirey about it. You say Mr Hore is in your part of the co[u]ntery. Have you bine there? I hope you like whear you ear still. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My sister Jones is at Dollanstown¹⁷⁶ till I come back from Beamore. She is very well. Mr Worth bid me tell you he has at last done what you desired about poor nurse.¹⁷⁷

NLI, MS 41,578/9

129. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO [UNKNOWN], 2 JUNE 1736

Sir, the last letter I had the honner to rece[i]ve from you was soe obliging and fil[l]ed with such kind expressions incurriges¹⁷⁸ me to beg your faveur and fri[e]ndship in an affair I am to acquent you with.

Mr [William] Har[r]ison the [Revenue] Commis[sio]ner¹⁷⁹ being just a deying or

¹⁶⁵ *Lege* likely.

¹⁶⁶ *Lege* creatures.

¹⁶⁷ *Lege* die.

¹⁶⁸ *Lege* eleven.

¹⁶⁹ *Lege* will not thrive. Possibly Richard (b.1723), Ann (b.1727) and Catherine (b.1728) Sampson.

¹⁷⁰ Possibly Lettice Sampson (b.1722).

¹⁷¹ *Lege* Rathfarnham, a Conolly estate, and the Dublin residence of the Worth family.

¹⁷² Edward Worth (1672–1741) married Dorothy Whitfield (d. 1732).

¹⁷³ Jane Worth (1695–1762) married James Persse in 1742.

¹⁷⁴ See letters nos 121 and 127.

¹⁷⁵ *Lege* duke.

¹⁷⁶ Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

¹⁷⁷ Unidentified; probably an old family retainer. Mary Jones and Jane Bonnell commented on Nurse Ward's distressed circumstances and tried to relieve her situation, Katherine was less keen to assist her: see also letter no. 192.

¹⁷⁸ *Lege* encourages.

¹⁷⁹ William Harrison succeeded Sir Thomas (later Lord) Southwell on the board of the Irish revenue commissioners in 1721; see Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*, p. 129.

deed,¹⁸⁰ I have nothing soe much at heart as that my nephew Conolly¹⁸¹ may succeed Mr Harison. I made applacat[i]on to S[i]r Robert Wallpool¹⁸² on the death of my dear Mr Conolly,¹⁸³ but my one¹⁸⁴ sorrows made my request come too leat and then I had most obligeing messiges from S[i]r Robert that that Commiss[i]on was dissposed off, but [he] w[oul]d be glad of any opertunaty to sarve me. And I can not think any of the Kings fri[e]nds can forget the meny true and feathfull sarvic[e]s my dear husband for meny years of his life did for the Prottestant succession and for the Kings sarvic[e]s. And its well knowen in this kingdom what he suffered in the Queen's regin.¹⁸⁵ And as I never applyed for any mark of royall favers for my self – which meny thought I had a just right to doe, both on my husband and [my] own famallys account – I never did. But now I beg your fri[e]ndship and int[e]rest in this affear and give me l[e]ave to say that tho[ugh] my nephew Conolly's fortune, or the best part of it, is in this kingdome, he is an Englishman by bearth¹⁸⁶ and educaton.

And I may further add, beca[u]se I am noe stranger to the affears of this kingdoom, that a man of his fortune and int[e]rest in this co[un]tury wo[ul]d be of the greatest sarvic[e] to the revenue, and I deer¹⁸⁷ say he wo[ul]d be a constant resedent at the boord when his attendances in parlement in England was not nessecery, and I am sure that boord is offten wanting on meny accasions.¹⁸⁸ This I doe not say by indussing¹⁸⁹ my nephews fri[e]nds to sarve him on this accasion, for I hop[e] he has meny other quallif[i]cat[i]ons – his fortune, his one¹⁹⁰ merret and the sarvics and memmery¹⁹¹ of his unkell – I hope will injage his fri[e]nds to sarve him. And sir, I have not the asuarancas to writ[e] my self to S[i]r Robert Wallpool but most intreat you[r] making my most humbl[e] sarvics exceptble¹⁹² to him. And that I am very senceable¹⁹³ of the fri[e]ndship he had and allways expressed for my dear Mr Conolly and my self, for which I retean a just sencas.¹⁹⁴ Soe I shall give you no further tr[o]uble now than the asurances that if ever you have again any sarvic[e]s or fri[e]ndship for your fri[e]nds in Ierland I may as[s]ure you of mine and my fri[e]nds int[e]rest in all your affears. For I am sir, with all immaganable esteem and respect, your most obed[i]ant, humbl[e], sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

TCD, MS 3974/30

¹⁸⁰ *Lege* dead.

¹⁸¹ William Conolly (1706–54).

¹⁸² Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford (1676–1745).

¹⁸³ William Conolly (1662–1729).

¹⁸⁴ *Lege* own.

¹⁸⁵ *Lege* reign. William Conolly (1662–1729) was first appointed a revenue commissioner in 1709 and dismissed on the change of administration in London and Dublin in 1710: Walsh, *Making of the Irish protestant ascendancy*, pp 125–6.

¹⁸⁶ *Lege* birth.

¹⁸⁷ *Lege* dare.

¹⁸⁸ *Lege* occasions.

¹⁸⁹ *Lege* inducing.

¹⁹⁰ *Lege* own.

¹⁹¹ *Lege* memory.

¹⁹² *Lege* acceptable.

¹⁹³ *Lege* sensible.

¹⁹⁴ *Lege* sense.

130. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 13 JULY 1736

I had a letter from my dear sister of the 1st and [wish I] had so[o]nner acquainted¹⁹⁵ you with the death of my dear brother Pearson¹⁹⁶ and your good fri[e]nd, but at my comeing home a wick affter he was burryed my sister Jones told me she had acquainted you with the mallancolly news, for which I know you will have great consarn. The very bad steat of health [he was in] – he was constantly ill – and the littell prospect he and his fri[e]nds had of his being better makes me not lement his death as other ways I sho[ul]d have done. For his life was a miserable wan, not wan day without some greivous¹⁹⁷ compla[i]nts.

I stayed as long as I co[ul]d with my poor sister¹⁹⁸ who is the most miserable cr[e]ature I ever saw. Nothing to be sayed to give her any comfort and had I stayd longer I most have bine ill myself, soe that my nephew Conolly¹⁹⁹ that came there forsed me a way. I left with her her sister Dickson²⁰⁰ and a ness²⁰¹ of hers, a very sencable discreet²⁰² womon and wan she is very fond off, and a clargy man and his wife that stays much with her. He²⁰³ has left her every thing in his power. He has besides her junter,²⁰⁴ mon[e]y [and] housis in Dublin that was not in the settellment and some land he purchased himself, house, furnetur, pleat,²⁰⁵ stock and everything of that kind, and the int[e]rest of 7000 po[u]nd dew by my nephew Conolly,²⁰⁶ the 5000 po[u]nd my dear Mr Conolly²⁰⁷ left to my dear Nancy Pe[a]rson,²⁰⁸ and 2000 po[u]nd [which] was dew of her portion. The 5000 po[u]nd she has a power to dispose of at her death on releations and [£]700 of the [£]2000. He has left very few legecys – after my sisters death [£]500 to Mrs Kettin;²⁰⁹ [£]400 to Lord Chife Barron Marly;²¹⁰ [£]400 to Dr Trotter²¹¹ – these to be payd by Mr Conolly out of the 2000 po[u]nd, and 50 po[u]nd [to] the clargy man I have mentioned – but affter my sisters death. What he purchased [that yields a] rint,²¹² which is about [£]40 or [£]50 a year, to some old sarvants thats marryed and lives with them ever senas my sister

¹⁹⁵ *Lege* acquainted.

¹⁹⁶ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

¹⁹⁷ *Lege* greivous.

¹⁹⁸ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

¹⁹⁹ William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁰⁰ Elizabeth Conolly married Capt. Thomas Dickson of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, a Conolly land agent.

²⁰¹ *Lege* niece, unidentified.

²⁰² *Lege* discreet.

²⁰³ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

²⁰⁴ *Lege* jointure.

²⁰⁵ *Lege* silver plate.

²⁰⁶ William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁰⁷ William Conolly (1662–1729).

²⁰⁸ Their daughter Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36). William Conolly (1662–1729) bequeathed Ann (Nancy) Pearson £5000 that upon her death devolved on her father Thomas. Thomas subsequently left this legacy to his wife Anne (Jane).

²⁰⁹ Thomas Pearson's sister, Mrs Keating.

²¹⁰ Thomas Marlay (Marley) (c. 1691–1766): see letter no. 113, note 4.

²¹¹ Unidentified. Dr Trotter and Rt Hon. Thomas Marley were close friends of Thomas Pearson.

²¹² *Lege* rent.

lived at Beamore. This is the substance of his will. Tho[ugh] wrot[e] in his one²¹³ hand not a fortnight before he dyed, [it] was not signed till I was put on get[t]ing him to doe it the day I went there. It was very hap[p]y it was done.

I have given you soe long an account I am tyerd. As yours has nothing pertickler to answer I shall conclude with telling [you that] no more of Jeny Samsons children is deed yet.²¹⁴ By a letter last night I find Molly Burton²¹⁵ as bad as ever. Yesterday my sister Jones left me to goe stay some time with her son.²¹⁶ The re[a]son was her made²¹⁷ is left her to lay in and as she is to take her [on] again she thought she wo[ul]d be better there without a made than hear, tho[ugh] I co[ul]d have made that e[a]sey to her but she wo[ul]d not stay.

We had some very hot charming we[a]ther, but 4 days great r[a]ine which will doe great hurt to hay and all the grean.²¹⁸ We have had thunder. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/9

131. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3–4 AUGUST 1736

I had my dear sisters of the 23[rd] of Jully some posts a goe but I doe not love to give you an ill costome²¹⁹ of writing too often, wanst in ten days. I do not love to neglect you but I have meny let[t]ers to writ[e] every day, meny more then I desire to doe.

I hear every post from Beamore. Poor sister²²⁰ is much the same, she eats, but is not come to any rest. There is a report in Dublin that Willi[am]s Conyngham²²¹ is deed²²² or deying at Sleane.²²³ It has bine sayd soe before but I beli[e]ve he is very ill. But that is kept a great secret by the villanous p[e]loppell about him. I sho[ul]d not be surprised to hear he was deed for I have often wond[e]red [how] he has lived soe long. Its a sad consideration to think he was nather fit to live [n]or to dey, and that wan that sho[ul]d have bine the heed²²⁴ of his famally, that his death sho[ul]d be [the] means to prasarve²²⁵ a famally. I doe not beli[e]ve him deed but [that he] has bine very ill. If I hear any more before I send this letter away you shall know it.

About a wick agoe I h[e]ard from Frank Burton, she²²⁶ was then very ill, had had 2 bad fits. When she came out of the last [she] e[i]ther co[ul]d not or wo[ul]d not

²¹³ *Lege* own.

²¹⁴ See letter no. 128.

²¹⁵ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

²¹⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

²¹⁷ *Recte* maid.

²¹⁸ *Lege* grain.

²¹⁹ *Lege* custom.

²²⁰ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

²²¹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²²² *Lege* dead.

²²³ Conyngham Hall, Slane, Co. Meath: see letter no. 21.

²²⁴ *Lege* head.

²²⁵ *Lege* preserve.

²²⁶ Francis (Frank) Byrton (1696–1744) and Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

spake but signed for every thing she wanted, and as her temper is very pivesh,²²⁷ he writ[e]s [that] it was hard to doe what she wo[ul]d have them [do]. I am sure I doe not wish [for] her life for she is a most miserable cr[e]ature.

I h[e]ard yest[e]rday from sister Jones. All well there. She says she will be he[re] nixt wick tho[ugh] only to make a visit, her made²²⁸ not being re[a]dy to come home. I shall add noe more then the as[s]urance that I am allways my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

I doe not remember if I wrot[e] to you that about October I shall be out of jackalet soe pray take care of me. Mr Madocks²²⁹ is hear and derects this letter, he gives you his sarvices. He is a good natured man as lives and is come to Ierland purpously to make me a visit. He has promised it these 2 years. He says if he take[s] a gant²³⁰ into Esix²³¹ or Kent he will see you. I thought I had begone²³² on a sheet but find I was mistaken.

August 4th

NLI, MS 41,578/9

132. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 AUGUST 1736

I had my dear sisters of the 3[rd]. In dew time had I not h[e]ard from you I did intend writing about this time tho[ugh] I have littell to say but [that] we ear all well.

I hear every post from Beamore. She²³³ has had some fits which I think looks like estericks,²³⁴ but the letter yesterday says she seems to be better then she has bine yet. Soe I hope in time she will come to be more calm and re[a]sonable and consider that as her kind husband²³⁵ has left her a great fortune, she may doe a great deall of good with it in her life time as well as what she will l[e]ave to her fri[e]nds. You can not wonder more at his not l[e]aveing me a legesey then every body did – as I did that he did not l[e]ave you wan. Great was my expences allways with him and I am sure when my dear Nancy²³⁶ deyed, had she bine my one²³⁷ child, I was at as great expenc[e]s in every pertickler. And every time he was ill with me I am sure he wanted no care nor p[ai]nes, and my sister Jones was a parfict nurse keeper to him, and he made her great complem[en]ts. And I was sure he wo[ul]d have left her a legesey beca[us]e he gave meny hints that way. But as he was mar[r]yed to my dear Mr Conollys sister I never thought I co[ul]d doe enough for them all. As to your

²²⁷ *Lege* peevish.

²²⁸ *Recte* maid: see letter no. 130.

²²⁹ Unidentified.

²³⁰ *Lege* jaunty.

²³¹ *Lege* Essex.

²³² *Lege* begun.

²³³ Katherine's sister-in-law, the recently widowed Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

²³⁴ *Lege* hysterics.

²³⁵ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

²³⁶ Her niece and ward Anne (Nancy) Pearson (1712–36), daughter of Thomas (1678–1736) and Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

²³⁷ *Lege* own.

noot,²³⁸ my sister²³⁹ told me of it senas he dyed and sayd she knew he wo[ul]d burn it. But if it be fo[u]nd, she sayd she wo[ul]d, when she was able [to] look [at] all the papers herself and send it me.

The report we had current for meny days of Willis Conynghams²⁴⁰ death is not true. It is most cartan²⁴¹ he is very ill, spits blood and nothing stays on his stomach, but I h[e]ard 2 days a goe he was better, was put a horse back and a man went a foot by him.

My sister Jones was hear a Monday and a Thursday. Her made²⁴² is brought to bed soe I hope so[o]ne she will be able to come to her mistress. I have wrot[e] soe meny letters to day I am scarce able to hold the pen, soe fear²⁴³ you well. I am sincerely yours, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/9

133. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 SEPTEMBER 1736

I wrot[e] [to] my dear sister the [blank] [wherein] I told you I was to goe to Beamore. I came back last Satterday and found my poor sister²⁴⁴ not so bad as I expected. My coming ca[u]sed a great deall of crying in²⁴⁵ both sides, affter that she was very sick, but on thats being over she was very re[a]sonable and I fo[u]nd [she] licked²⁴⁶ to hold discourse of any kind. Her stomack bad but her not get[t]ing sleep is what is worse with her. When she gets an houre or two sleep together, when she [damaged] wacks²⁴⁷ she is quit[e] over come and wakes very sick and some times vomets.²⁴⁸ But I hope time will have the same effect on her that it has on all others. She reeds much when alone and considering how much she creys,²⁴⁹ I wonder her ey[e]s is soe strong. She gave me the inclosed noot²⁵⁰ which she wo[ul]d have had me to have burned, but I remember the odd twenty [so I] tore it before her. I sayd that was proper before she gave me the not[e] and you most e[i]ther writ[e] to her or such a letter to me as I may send to her. She was very kind in express[i]on of you and says he²⁵¹ had offten told her he wo[ul]d destroy that noot but co[ul]d not find it. She found it in an old pocket book that he had not used meny years, and allsoe this account which she did [damaged]. But [it] might be of some use to you soe I incloose it to you.

I told you before I had sent you 18 yards of gr[ey] sarge for a co[a]t to you but I forgot to tell you by [the] same hand I had sent you twenty five g[u]ineys, your

²³⁸ *Lege* note, probably relating to a debt owed by Jane Bonnell to Thomas Pearson.

²³⁹ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

²⁴⁰ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738): see letter no. 131.

²⁴¹ *Lege* certain.

²⁴² *Recte* maid: see letter no. 130.

²⁴³ *Lege* fair.

²⁴⁴ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

²⁴⁵ *Recte* on.

²⁴⁶ *Lege* liked.

²⁴⁷ *Lege* wakes.

²⁴⁸ *Lege* vomits.

²⁴⁹ *Lege* cries.

²⁵⁰ *Lege* note: see letter no. 132.

²⁵¹ Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

quarter [allowance] dew last August. For as I have not mon[e]y now in Gould and Nisbet's hands nor shall not yet these 2 months I was unwilling you sho[ul]d want your small pittence so long – but remember the odd twenty five shillin[g]s is to be layd out in jacklet for your brackfast.²⁵² I hope you have thought of giveing derections about my jacklet for I have not what will sarve me above 2 or 3 months, and as I can not draw on Gould and Nisbet till I hear they have got mon[e]y of mine in the[i]r hands, soe with the remender ²⁵³of my last account in your hands you most be soe good to advance what will pay for the jacklet when its re[a]dy.

I have this day by a sarvant of our Lord Chanc[el]ler²⁵⁴ that goes this day for England, but parhaps not to London this month, sent you 21 yards of cloth for sheets or any thing you want it for. I had 4 pisses bought together for sheets. My sister Jones beg[g]led I wo[ul]d let her have a piss for mo[u]rning aprons for herself and daughter Jones²⁵⁵ and frokes²⁵⁶ for Kety Jones,²⁵⁷ tho[ugh] they will make but 2 frokes for high days. The cloth came but the day before I went to Beamore. I sent her hers that day and sent yours to the person that sayd he wo[ul]d l[e]ave it at Mr Hores, and as my sister Jones is to pay nothing for hers soe I told her I wo[ul]d send you the fellow piss. I have not opened my 2 pissis soe cannot say what the cloth is, but if you doe not like it I deer say you may get ch[e]ape enough²⁵⁸ in the co[u]ntery that will give you mon[e]y for it. Soe wan way or other I hope it will be of sarvis to you. I sho[ul]d be glad I co[ul]d doe more for you than I doe.

My eyes is better but not quit[e] well. I goe to day to Castelltown [and] this wick [I] will bring my littell charge²⁵⁹ home. I shall be glad to hear when you rece[i]ve any of the things mentioned in this letter. If you be not tyred in reeding this I am sure I am in writing, and am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] There was a sort of an account between you and [our] worthless²⁶⁰ [nephew] that my sister²⁶¹ thought she gave it me, but I [must] have given it [to] her aga[i]ne for I can not find it. But I think it can be of no great use to you now. I take it that it was to let my brother²⁶² see how the account sto[o]d between you.²⁶³ Has Hary and his sister²⁶⁴ made there visit to you. I have fo[u]nd the account above mentioned in my pocket book which I allsoe inclose to you.

NLI, MS 41,578/9

²⁵² *Lege* breakfast.

²⁵³ *Lege* remainder.

²⁵⁴ Thomas Wyndham (1681–1745), 1st Baron Wyndham, lord chancellor of Ireland, 1726–39: *DIB*.

²⁵⁵ Jane Jones (c. 1717–85).

²⁵⁶ *Lege* frocks.

²⁵⁷ Katherine Jones (b. 1740), daughter of Roger (d. 1747) and Elenor Jones.

²⁵⁸ Katherine suggested that if Jane Bonnell did not like the material she could exchange it for some other.

²⁵⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

²⁶⁰ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁶¹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765)

²⁶² Thomas Pearson (1678–1736).

²⁶³ See letters nos 132 and 133.

²⁶⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and probably his sister-in-law Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

134. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 2 OCTOBER 1736

I had not bine soe long of answering my dear sisters of the 17[th] of Sep[tem]b[e]r but I delayed it in hopes of hearing you had rece[i]ved mine with your noot²⁶⁵ to brother Pearson which I sent you emedetly²⁶⁶ on my return from Beamore. And I have not wrot[e] for some time and tho[ugh] your letter is longer then usell,²⁶⁷ yet it is not much to be answered, for as I sent you what papers my sister Pearson gave me, I have no more to say as to that.

I am sor[r]y you think poor ness Conyngham in soe bad a way as to her health. Her boy²⁶⁸ wo[ul]d be very unhap[p]y did any thing eall²⁶⁹ her, for who co[ul]d keep him from his father if he had a mind to keep him.

As to Ald[er]man Curtiss,²⁷⁰ I hear he deyd in good curcomstances,²⁷¹ has left his wife about 4 thousand po[u]n[d]s and his child[e]rin all well enough except his eldest son that he has left some small thing too. He marryed as I hear an idle husey he had kept.

I hope before this you have got the silk sarge and the twenty five g[u]ineys I sent by Miss Burton.²⁷² She sayd that as so[o]ne as she got to London she wo[ul]d send them to Mr Hore. Pray what Mrs Hore is it that is mentioned in the news as deed. Is it any of your fri[e]nds.

The piss of cloth I sent by Lord Chancers²⁷³ sarvant will not be soe so[o]ne with you, for he goes not str[a]ight to London, I beli[e]ve not till the [King?] lands. Sister Jones is hear, her son and daughter²⁷⁴ was hear for these ten days past. They went home yesterday. She is a very sober discr[it]²⁷⁵ womon and I beli[e]ve he is hap[p]yer then if he had got mon[e]y with a wife.

My littell nursery is very well I thank God and [a]great devartion²⁷⁶ to me. Sister Jones and meny more of my fri[e]nds gives you there sarvices. My eyes is better. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/9

135. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 NOVEMBER 1736

I had a letter from my dear sister of the 18[th] of last month giveing me an account that you had got all the things. I am glad you have got them and likes them, which is all I desire. I know the cloth will make very good she[e]ts, I have made 3 payer²⁷⁷

²⁶⁵ *Lege* note: see letters nos 132 and 133.

²⁶⁶ *Lege* immediately.

²⁶⁷ *Lege* usual.

²⁶⁸ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

²⁶⁹ *Lege* ail.

²⁷⁰ Ald. Thomas Curtis of Dublin: see letter no. 126, note 147.

²⁷¹ *Lege* circumstances.

²⁷² Possibly referring to Elizabeth Burton (d. 1748), daughter of Francis (d. 1714) and Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, and sister of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744): see letter no. 133.

²⁷³ Thomas Wyndham, 1st Baron Wyndham (1681–1745): see letter no. 134, note 254.

²⁷⁴ Roger Jones (d. 1747) and his wife Elenor.

²⁷⁵ *Lege* discreet.

²⁷⁶ *Lege* diversion.

²⁷⁷ *Lege* pairs.

of the same. My sister Jones gave her daughter Jones²⁷⁸ aprons and shifts, I mean 2 aprons and 7 shifts and I gave her fine slives²⁷⁹ for them.

As to the 3 places you inquire after – my sister Pearson has bine out of order but by a letter last night she is a good deall better and desir[e]s I wo[ul]d return you meny thanks for your kind and obliging letter. As to Sleane,²⁸⁰ I hear better but I can have no pertickler account from any body. Boncreggy²⁸¹ in the same miserable way as usell.

These 8 days past we have had sad we[a]ther, high winds and great r[a]ines, I hardly ever knew a storm last soe long.

I am tr[o]ubled you mention your haveing a cough and shortness of bre[a]th which makes me long to hear from you. About a wick hence I shall remove to Dublin [un]til Christmass. About a wick agoe I stra[i]ned my foot goeing from my bed to the window, nobody with me. It was very bad for some days [and] it has confined me to my chamber, which at this time was not disagr[ee]able to me. I intend tomorrow to goe down stayers for its now much better. Sister Jones and a great meny fri[e]nds gives you there sarvis. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/9

136. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 NOVEMBER²⁸² 1736

I had my dear sisters a Sunday with six packets that came in together, yours [of] December 1st. I wrot[e] to you the 30[th] of November and inclosed a letter to Gould and Nisbet to pay you fifty po[un]ds which I hope is come safe to you. I think I inclose[ed] it to Col[one]l Cornwallis.²⁸³

As to Bencregy, [it is] just the same way. Sure she²⁸⁴ has the constetuten²⁸⁵ of a horse to hold out soe. I hear Willis C[onyngam] [i]s to be in town this night, then I shall have some plauge or other.

I have got the jackelet, as the last I had was in the pot and [I] likes it very well.

[Gap in manuscript]²⁸⁶

Nixt wick I remove my big²⁸⁷ and littell²⁸⁸ famally to Casteltown [numbering] between 40 and 50 [people]. Hary C[onyngam] is I beli[e]ve in London.

²⁷⁸ Elenor Jones: see letters nos 133, 134.

²⁷⁹ *Lege* sleeves.

²⁸⁰ Conyngam Hall, Slane, Co. Meath.

²⁸¹ Buncraggy, Co. Clare, the Burton country residence.

²⁸² *Recte* December.

²⁸³ Either Maj. Gen. Hon. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Hon. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76): see letter no. 121.

²⁸⁴ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngam) (d. 1737) of Buncraggy.

²⁸⁵ *Lege* constitution.

²⁸⁶ Material cut from letter.

²⁸⁷ Probably referring to her general household.

²⁸⁸ The children, Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37), Alice (1728–45) and William (1733–96) Burton were living with Katherine in Dublin and Castletown.

When you writ[e] nixt say how our accounts stands. I have meny letters to writ[e] [as I] see meny packets coming in together. Mr Samson²⁸⁹ tells me he gave you an account about Mr Savige.²⁹⁰ He has not yet got your papers but Mr French²⁹¹ says he'll get them so[o]ne.

I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] If you want a frank for me you may inclose to Mr Tickell.²⁹²

NLI, MS 41,578/9

137. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, DUBLIN, 20 DECEMBER 1736

I had 2 letters from my dear sister by the last packets, the forst of the 7[th] and the other the 11th. The forst had 2 parts of letters from [our] unfortunate[er] ness C[onyngham]. I pity her extramly, both on her one²⁹³ account and the poor boys.²⁹⁴ I sent emedetly to cousen Nisbet²⁹⁵ and have inclosed his answer which is more full then I co[ul]d writ[e], but most p[e]opell think this is a sham to quit his²⁹⁶ crediters. But he is soe unaccountaball in all his actions that no body can answer for him. I think Capt[ain] Conyngham²⁹⁷ sho[ul]d be allarmed both for the boy and himself, and his sister and her childrin.²⁹⁸ I h[e]ard he²⁹⁹ was to be in Dublin last wick but I have not h[e]ard he is come, for I make no inquirey about him and p[e]opell is unwilling to name him to me, but I think his wife sho[ul]d get the better of all his ill usige³⁰⁰ by soe long [ac]custom[ed] to it and let her but consider her child, sho[ul]d anything eall³⁰¹ her how unhap[p]y he must be left. I can say noe more on this subj[ect] only he has swore a 100 times nothing sho[ul]d ever make him lessen his rent rool.³⁰² But who can mind what e[i]ther he says or swears.

As to yours of the 11th, a short answer may sarve it. As to the account, I doubt not its right. I am glad you have got some jacklet for yourself. I much suspect your doing much for yourself.

I am glad the bill came soe sessanable³⁰³ to you [in order] to pay your land lady. I have inclosed a draft on Gould and Nisbet payable to you for twenty g[u]ineys to be

²⁸⁹ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

²⁹⁰ Clerk to Thomas Marlay (Marley): see letter no. 113, note 4.

²⁹¹ Robert French, Jane Bonnell's legal counsel: see letter no. 44, note 512.

²⁹² Thomas Tickell (1685–1740): see letter no. 30, note 312.

²⁹³ *Lege* own.

²⁹⁴ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

²⁹⁵ Thomas Nesbit, lawyer: see NLI, MS, 41,580/34.

²⁹⁶ Referring to Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁹⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁹⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and her children Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37), Alice (1729–45) and William (1733–96) Burton.

²⁹⁹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³⁰⁰ *Lege* usage.

³⁰¹ *Lege* ail.

³⁰² *Lege* roll.

³⁰³ *Lege* seasonable.

given to poor ness Conyngham, e[i]ther for her self or [her] son as she pl[e]ases. I am sure she wants it most and as the account stands between you and me, pray take out of it for yourself fore³⁰⁴ g[u]ineys and then there will remane³⁰⁵ of mine in your hands, five po[u]nds.

As to your bissness, R[alph] Samson says he has wrot[e] to you and will so[o]ne get all your papers – Savige³⁰⁶ had tow³⁰⁷ much bissness to mind all. He was esteemed a very honnest man.

You may e[i]ther inclose to Mr Tickell³⁰⁸ or get your letters franked. E[i]ther way will doe, but now that I am going in to the co[u]ntery I shall have those franked a day so[o]nner then by Mr Tickell till I come to town. Miss Burton³⁰⁹ and my 2 littell boys³¹⁰ is all ill with coughs. I hold out best of any of my famally. Doe not expect to hear from [me] for some time. I shall add no more than the as[s]urances that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

Doe not send Gould and Nisbet[s] letter till neer New Year Day, and deat³¹¹ it yourself and seall it.

NLI, MS 41,578/9

138. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 11 JANUARY 1736[1737]

Its above 3 wicks senas I wrot[e] to my dear sister, but as there is ten packets dew I was in hopes of there comeing in and that I sho[ul]d have h[e]ard from you. But for fear you had think some thing amys with us, I writ[e] now to tell you we ear all well I thank God. Nixt wick I think to goe to Dublin.

Another of Raph Samsons childrine deyed 2 or 3 days before I left Dublin, a fine girill of ten year old.³¹² They ear very unfortunate in their childrin and no body thinkes there eldest son can live. The youngest is as yet a healthy child.³¹³

Sister Jones is hear and well, her son and daughter³¹⁴ was hear all Xmass. They went home a Saterdag. I have had a house full ever senas I came hear, half a dusen³¹⁵ went off yesterday but we ear 14 or 15 still hear. I have not h[e]ard if Raph Samson has sent your wine to you yet. I hope you got my last with the small bill for poor ness Conyngham. Her wicked husband³¹⁶ is in Dublin and sits up till 4 or 5 a clock. They say he lo[o]kes very ill, but who co[ul]d lo[o]ke other ways that lives his life.

³⁰⁴ *Recte* four.

³⁰⁵ *Lege* remain.

³⁰⁶ Clerk to Thomas Marlay (Marley): see letter no. 113, note 4.

³⁰⁷ *Lege* too.

³⁰⁸ Thomas Tickell (1685–1740): see letter no. 30, note 312.

³⁰⁹ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

³¹⁰ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37) and Francis Pierpont (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

³¹¹ *Lege* date.

³¹² Katherine Sampson (1727–37): see letters nos 128 and 133.

³¹³ Michael Sampson (b. 1735).

³¹⁴ Roger (d. 1747) and Elenor Jones.

³¹⁵ *Lege* dozen.

³¹⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

Molly Burton³¹⁷ [is] in the same miserable way. I soe³¹⁸ no more for if the packets comes in shall writ[e] soe a gane.³¹⁹ I am my dear sisters every affectionate, Ka: Conolly.

NLI, MS 41,578/10

139. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 JANUARY 1736/[37]

By ten packets that came in yesterday I had 3 letters from my dear sister, the forst the 14[th], the 2[n]d of the 30[th] December and the 3[r]d of January, and this most sarve for an answer to all.

As to my sp[e]aking to Raph Samson about cousen Nisbet,³²⁰ it was baca[u]se I thought he wo[ul]d doe his best in your affear but senas that I beli[e]ve he wo[ul]d not be consarned beca[u]se of the 2 Conynghams³²¹ for home³²² I beli[e]ve he is consarned. This is all [the answer] your forst [letter] require[e]s.

As to yours of the 3[r]d Jan[ua]ry, I am glad the bill for poor ness C[onyngham]³²³ came safe and you need give me noe thanks for such a triffell as the 4 g[u]iney you mention. In wan of your letters there was wan for Raph Samson which was sent him this morning. Yours of the 3[r]d require[e]s no answer.

I am glad you have oyoded³²⁴ goeing a brood.³²⁵ I wish I had [not] done soe but I dined twist at my n[e]ighboor the Bushop of Meaths³²⁶ and tho[ugh] but half a mile [away], I have got a cold, as has Miss Burten.³²⁷ The rest of my littell wans is well I thank God.

Sister Jones gives you her sarvis (and is well) as doth meny more of your fri[e]nds. The ten packets brought me 20 letters soe I can say no more but that I am most affectionatly my dear sisters, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I wrot[e] to you the 11th inst.

NLI, MS 41,578/10

³¹⁷ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

³¹⁸ *Lege* say.

³¹⁹ *Lege* again.

³²⁰ Thomas Nesbit, lawyer: see letter no. 137.

³²¹ Williams (1698–1738) and Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

³²² *Lege* whom.

³²³ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

³²⁴ *Lege* avoided.

³²⁵ *Lege* abroad.

³²⁶ Arthur Price (1679/80–1752) was successively Church of Ireland bishop of Clonfert, 1724–30, Ferns, 1730–34, and Meath, 1734–44, and finally archbishop of Cashel, 1744–52. He was the son of Samuel Price, vicar of Kildrought and Straffan in the diocese of Dublin who became William Conolly's chaplain. In 1724, when Price was dean of Ferns, but on his way to further promotions, he had a stone house erected close by the old house of his father in Oakley Park in the recently renamed Celbridge. Price was buried beneath the aisle of St Mary's church, Leixlip, Co. Kildare: Tony Doohan, *A history of Celbridge* (Celbridge, 1984); Patrick Fagan, *The diocese of Meath in the eighteenth century* (Dublin, 2001); *DIB*.

³²⁷ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

140. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 4 FEBRUARY 1736[/37]

I wrot[e] to my dear sister the same day I had yours about 3 hours before the packet came in. I had allsoe [had] a letter from Master Conyngham,³²⁸ poor boy, I pity him, he has a sad father.³²⁹ [Williams] left before 12 last Sunday night with a troop of horse that he sent for to Sleane³³⁰ – I mean a troop of his ragamuffin – and this day I am forst to answer a bill of his he filed against me. He to[o]ke but one husey³³¹ in the couch³³² to Sleane with him and used allways to take 2 or 3, but they had such quarrells he grew tyerd of soe meny.

At Boncreggy³³³ [they are] in the same miserable way or rather worse. My cold and cough still continius. I am not worse soe if the we[a]ther comes in good I am in hopes it will wear off. I shall add noe more having meny letters to writ[e] and wo[ul]d not writ[e] this post but to tell you I am better. Sister Jones is sit[t]ing by me and gives you her sarvic. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

141. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 16 FEBRUARY 1736[/37]

I have not wrot[e] to my dear sister above these ten or above days but as I expect every day to hear from you I have delayed it. But as there is no licklyhood of the wind changing, soe I wo[ul]d no longer delay writing to tell you my dear sister that my cough is not worse, but I think these 2 or 3 days rather better then I was. But not any mortell that I hear of but has coughs and colds, its as univ[er]s[al] as the Dunkirck favear.³³⁴ 2 days agoe poor sister Jones, that has bine brag[g]ing how well she escaped, was taken ill and tho[ugh] she was hear yesterday, she was forsed to go home to bed and sends me word she had a bad night. But those that is taken as she was so[o]ne gets over it, but mine has continued 7 wicks and the we[a]ther is soe bad I cannot goe in to the co[un]trey. I hope you have got over your cold you compla[i]ned off in your last. I long to hear you have, but cross winds and bad we[a]ther hinders me and I see no sing³³⁵ of its changing.

When you writ[e] to ness C[onyngham] [give] my sarvis and thank master³³⁶ for his prity letter. His father³³⁷ to[o]k his flight out of town the Sunday night that priviledg³³⁸ was out, a littell before 12, and had a g[u]ard of 40 or 50 horse – I mean

³²⁸ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

³²⁹ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³³⁰ The Slane estate, Co. Meath, the residence of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³³¹ A prostitute.

³³² *Lege* coach.

³³³ Buncraggy, Co. Clare, the Burton country residence.

³³⁴ An expression, that probably came into use after the battle of the Dunes (also known as the battle of Dunkirk), which was fought on 14 June 1658, to describe a fever epidemic. It is more commonly attributed to an outbreak of fever following the siege of Dunkirk in 1793.

³³⁵ *Recte* sign.

³³⁶ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

³³⁷ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³³⁸ *Lege* privilege. Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) was probably invoking his parliamentary privilege to escape his creditors.

a parsell of black g[u]ard from Slean. He and a madam³³⁹ mad[e] such [commotion] in a couch,³⁴⁰ the noyse they made allarmed all the streets they went throw.³⁴¹

Sister Person not well, rumictick³⁴² p[a]ines. Boncreggy still in the same miserable way but I have not h[e]ard these ten days. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly
NLI, MS 41,578/10

142. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 28 FEBRUARY 1736[37]

Dear sister,

This goes by the gentelman that takes the piss of cloth you wrot[e] for and will l[e]ave it at Mr Hores. I had a littell bit of fine cloth that I had left of aprons and I thought it too short, soe I have sent it in the bundell with the other linnin to you for an apron. If not long enough it may be of some other use to you.

My cold is much better and my cough and whiussing³⁴³ much abbated, so I hope it will be so[o]ne over if we had warm we[a]ther, [but] at this time, very cold.

Ned Mathews³⁴⁴ is very sanggin³⁴⁵ as to your affears and dou[b]ts not but so[o]ne to get your affears settled to your satisfact[i]on. I wish it may be soe and it wo[ul]d be soe had he a p[e]opell of truth or honesty to deal with, but he has not.

There is a packet come in. If any letters from you I'll tell you soe before I seall this. Soe will say noe more now then to as[s]ure my dear sister I am, most affactionatly yours, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] I had yours of the 21[st] this minnet just as I was going to seall this. It require[e]s no pertickler³⁴⁶ answer, only Mrs Samson³⁴⁷ that was hear just now says her husband wrot[e] to you all that is nesesity abo[u]t the wine. She has 3 childrin she believes will dey³⁴⁸ in March. She is big[g]er than I ever saw any body; she has not a month to rec[k]one.

NLI, MS 41,578/10

143. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 15 MARCH 1736[37]

This comes to tell my dear sister that I can now with ple[a]sure tell you my sister Jones³⁴⁹ is now past all danger. She has missed her fit these 2 days, is nather hot nor

³³⁹ *Lege* prostitute.

³⁴⁰ *Lege* coach.

³⁴¹ *Recte* through.

³⁴² *Lege* rheumatic.

³⁴³ *Lege* wheezing.

³⁴⁴ Edward Matthews, a Dublin lawyer acting on behalf of Jane Bonnell in her dispute with Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) over a mortgage she held on the Donegal estate; for letters from Matthews to Jane Bonnell, including a letter of 21 June 1744 in which Matthews reports that he has obtained a decree for her against her nephew, Colonel Conyngham, see NLI, MS 41,580/20. Jane's nephew Ralph Sampson (1693–1763) paid Matthews's legal fees on her behalf.

³⁴⁵ *Lege* sanguine.

³⁴⁶ *Lege* particular.

³⁴⁷ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85) and Ralph Sampson (1693–1763), Dublin merchant.

³⁴⁸ *Lege* die.

³⁴⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

drey,³⁵⁰ no purging nor vomiting senas Satherday, and Sunday has taken 2 vomits and has begone with the Bark,³⁵¹ and sleeps as well as ever. Full of spirits and she says as well as ever she was, she now thinks.

The widow Samson³⁵² in vast tr[o]uble for her son, his poor wife³⁵³ with her big belly [is] much to be pityed. He has left his wife and childrin very well. My sisters³⁵⁴ illness and the cold we[a]ther has mad[e] me put off my j[o]urney to Beamore till neer May, for as I did intend to take the childrin³⁵⁵ with me and my littell boy³⁵⁶ is very thin and has a constant cough, but hearty. But in all his coughs, he for the most part, packs up his meat with a great deall of flame.³⁵⁷ I beli[e]ve his vommiting make[s] him soe thin for I give him all the n[o]urishing things I can think off, but he gets no flesh, sleeps well, very spri[gh]tly, goes well, nothing like rickets.³⁵⁸ I have sayd a nough³⁵⁹ for I am hurryed and can add no more then to as[s]ure you I am, my dear sister, ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

144. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 31 MARCH 1737

By last packets I wrot[e] 2 or 3 lines in my sister Jones's letter to desire you for my sister Pearson to give Mrs Pagit³⁶⁰ 2 g[u]ineys, and to let you know both sister Jones and I wear prity well, and leat last night I had my dear sisters of the 23[rd]. I am sor[r]y for your cough and sore thro[a]t that is soe vallant,³⁶¹ but I hope in God your nixt will give me [a] better account of you. But by its vallances³⁶² and sud[d]en comeing I hope it will not last. Sister Jones is very thin with her ague.³⁶³ Its quit[e] over but she is wack,³⁶⁴ but in high spirits and says she was never better. I beli[e]ve it will doe her a great deall of sarvis (as says the l[e]arned). Senas you have not sent Mrs Pagit the 30 shil[l]in[g]s I desired you, pray make it 2 g[u]ineys for me and then you will have only about 16 shillin[g]s of mine in your hands which you may

³⁵⁰ *Lege* dry.

³⁵¹ Cinchona bark, also known as Jesuit's bark or Peruvian bark, was stripped from the tree, dried, and powdered. The bark is medicinally active, containing a variety of alkaloids including the antimalarial compound quinine and the antiarrhythmic quinidine. It was a popular medicine in the eighteenth century.

³⁵² Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764) married Michael Sampson (1680–1719), *c.* 1706: see letters nos 107 and 136, note 620.

³⁵³ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763) and Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (*c.* 1717–85).

³⁵⁴ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

³⁵⁵ Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37), Alice (1728–45) and William (1733–96) Burton.

³⁵⁶ Referring either to Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) or William Burton (1733–96).

³⁵⁷ *Lege* phlegm.

³⁵⁸ Rickets is a disease of growing bone that is unique to children and adolescents. It is caused by a failure of osteoid to calcify in a growing person.

³⁵⁹ *Lege* enough.

³⁶⁰ Unidentified: see letter no. 114.

³⁶¹ *Lege* violent.

³⁶² *Lege* violence.

³⁶³ Ague was a common descriptive term given to any fever or shivering fit.

³⁶⁴ *Lege* weak.

buy suger candy with for your cough, or what you pl[e]ase. I'll so[o]ne send you a bill for your quarter [allowance] ending the forst of February, or wo[ul]d you let it alone till May and have both together. Tell me which by the forst post.

I wonder you hear nothing of the piss of cloth, I have wrot[e] this day about it. Mr Samson hears nothing yet of the arrivell of the ship with the wine. I hope its [remainder of letter missing]

NLI, MS 41,578/10

145. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 5 APRIL 1737

I wo[ul]d not writ[e] soe so[o]ne to my dear sister but to let you know that sister Jones is quit[e] well but has not bine out yet. She has gone a second time under a course of the Bark and is now takeing Bitters³⁶⁵ and a wick hence she is to take the Bark again. I go tomorrow to Casteltown but she deer³⁶⁶ not venter³⁶⁷ nor stur out of town till about Whitsontide.

Raph Samson has burryed another daughter of 4, 5 or 6 year old.³⁶⁸ They ear a poor rotten sickly famally. There is 2 or 3 more will dey³⁶⁹ so[o]ne I beli[e]ve.

I wrot[e] to you to know wither I sho[ul]d send you your quarter [allowance] now or in May the half year together. If you doe not hear frequently from me while I am in the co[u]ntery be under no consarn for I have no time to spear³⁷⁰ there. My cold is quit[e] gone and I and my littell ones³⁷¹ [are] all well I thank God.

I am in a hurry the packets going off. Poor cousen Peggy Hamilton³⁷² is hear and gives you her sarviss. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

146. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 16 APRIL 1737

I had my dear sisters [letter] [and] with a sore heart I reed³⁷³ it. It was of the 4th and wan I had 2 packet [be]fore of the 29[th] of March which I answe[re]d the very first packet, and as this last did not come to me till 2 days a goe, I take this forst oportunaty to writ[e] to you and heart[i]ly wishes it may find you better than your last left you, for it has given me much consarn on meny accounts.

³⁶⁵ Cinchona bark: see letter no. 143, note 351. Bitters was traditionally an alcoholic preparation flavoured with botanical matter so that the end result is characterized by a bitter or bittersweet flavour. They were originally developed as patent medicines.

³⁶⁶ *Lege dare*.

³⁶⁷ *Lege venture*.

³⁶⁸ Unidentified.

³⁶⁹ *Lege die*.

³⁷⁰ *Lege spare*.

³⁷¹ Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37), Alice (1728–45) and William (1733–96) Burton.

³⁷² Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1685–1756): see letter no. 107, note 619.

³⁷³ *Lege read*.

Forst to find you soe ill and low in spirits and nixt that I can not doe as you desire, for as I have made 4 wills senas I was a widow,³⁷⁴ and the last but very leatly senas I was ill senas Christmas, which is I hope the last I shall make. For great tr[o]uble and vexsation it is to get such p[e]opell to gether as is thought proper to be witnessis to it, for its a very long wan and very cauasseley³⁷⁵ worded for fear that brut[e] Willi[am]s³⁷⁶ sho[ul]d give my exe[cu]ters any tr[o]uble. And upon my word and honner, except what is disposed of in my will, I co[ul]d not command 500 po[u]nd in the world. And as Mr Henery³⁷⁷ the banker is going (like a wise man) to quit bissness, he tells me pla[i]nly that I must pay 300 po[u]nd that Willi[am]s got me to be bond for to him in the year '30 or '31, which he swore a 100 times he wo[ul]d pay in six months, but as that and the 333 [damaged] had by his consent sent to his wife on your brother's death, I most repay if it be demanded by the exec[u]t[o]rs (which I hope it will not). This opon³⁷⁸ my word and honner [is] the case now with me and you may be sure I wo[ul]d doe every thing in my power to have the ple[a]sure of seeing my dear sister which I shall live to doe. If not I hope we shall meet in a better place. But I hope you will so[o]ne have your law shut³⁷⁹ ended, for Mr Mathews³⁸⁰ says he is sure it cannot hold long now. This Ralph Samson told me the day before I left Dublin.

I hope your wine wil[l] be as good as your last, for I pay a great prise and I desired it might be the best he³⁸¹ had.

I have a house full of compeny. As May is drawing ne[a]r I will by my nixt send you a not opon Gould and Nisbet for your mon[e]y. We ear all well. Its still a sharp northe[a]ste wind which I am sor[r]y for on your account. God send me a good account of you, which is the sencere prayers of my dear sister, your ever affectionate,
Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

147. KATHERINE CONOLLY, BEAMORE, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 MAY 1737

I had my dear sisters of the 22[nd] of Apr[i]ll last Friday, but coming hear a Satter day had not time to writ[e]. I fo[un]d my sister³⁸² tollarably well, but she never sturs out but [to] the Church [on] a Sunday which is 3 miles from this, which is all the exercsis she ever takes, for she will not goe into the gardin or any whear. I

³⁷⁴ Katherine was widowed on 30 October 1729.

³⁷⁵ *Lege* cautiously.

³⁷⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³⁷⁷ Hugh Henry (d. 1743). The banking partnership *Hugh Henry and Company* was dissolved in 1737: Robert Whan, *The Presbyterians of Ulster 1680–1730* (Woodbridge, 2013), p. 67.

³⁷⁸ *Lege* upon.

³⁷⁹ *Lege* suit. Refers to the ongoing legal dispute between Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and Williams (1698–1738) and later Henry (Harry) (1707–81) Conyngham concerning a mortgage Jane held on the Donegal estate.

³⁸⁰ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

³⁸¹ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

³⁸² Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749), of Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

brought all my littell wans³⁸³ with me. Very well I thank God and they ear great devartion to my sister. I shall l[e]ave this [place] about this day sennet.

You say soe much of Mrs Pagit³⁸⁴ I shall not tr[o]uble my self more about her, but she can get any sort of breed³⁸⁵ whear she is. I know no sort of bissness she has hear for we have enough of such tr[o]ubellsome folkes.

I hope you have got your wine safe. You asked wanst the prise of the cloth I sent; you wrot[e] not to exceed 3 s[hillings] a yard, but I gave 3 s[hillings] and 6 pen[ny]s, and if it be tow³⁸⁶ dear for your fri[e]nd you had best keep it to yourself. If not, the mon[e]y you get for it is at your sarvis. I sent you by the last packet a letter inclosed to you for Gould and Nisbet to pay fifty po[u]nds for Candellmass and this Mays allowance – which latter I hope you have got before this – and for the further³⁸⁷ you shall allways have it qu[a]rterly. My sister bids me say meny kind things from her to you. I left sister Jones well but wack.³⁸⁸ I hope she will be able [remainder of letter missing]

NLI, MS 41,578/10

148. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO MRS MCCAUSLAND,³⁸⁹ FRUITHILL, NEWTOWN LIMAVADY, 9 JUNE 1737

Dear Madam,

I have both yours for which I thank you and am obliged to you for what you say and desire among your fri[e]nds at Newtown[limavady] to have them complay³⁹⁰ with my desire about electing a Burgies³⁹¹ in the room of my good fri[e]nd your husband.³⁹² I thought when my nephew Conyngham³⁹³ and I desired my nephew Jones³⁹⁴ [to contest the seat] that it sho[ul]d not have met with the least opposition, but I find it doth from those I least expected it.

Your cousin Will[iam] McCausland,³⁹⁵ opon the death of your husband, came to me who said sences³⁹⁶ Mr Conyngham and [*sic*] had a mind to have Mr Jones

³⁸³ Francis Pierpont (1721–87), Mary (Molly) (1726–37), Alice (1728–45) and William (1733–96) Burton.

³⁸⁴ Unidentified; see letters nos 114 and 144.

³⁸⁵ Context unclear, perhaps referring to employment.

³⁸⁶ *Lege* too.

³⁸⁷ *Recte* future.

³⁸⁸ *Lege* weak.

³⁸⁹ Hannah McCausland (*née* Moore) (b. c. 1689), widow of James Hamilton, married secondly and as his second wife Col Robert McCausland (c. 1685–1737) of Fruithill, Co. Londonderry. Katherine was related to the McCausland family through marriages of the Conolly, Hamilton, Echlin and Sampson families. This letter, unsent, was discovered latterly under the floorboards of Castletown House.

³⁹⁰ *Lege* comply.

³⁹¹ *Lege* burgess.

³⁹² Robert McCausland (c. 1683–1734) of Fruithill, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, succeeded under the terms of William Conolly's (1662–1729) will to the Londonderry property.

³⁹³ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

³⁹⁴ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

³⁹⁵ William McCausland, son of Oliver (1637–1722) and Jane McCausland (*née* Hamilton) (b. c. 1661) of Resh, Co. Tyrone.

³⁹⁶ *Lege* since.

elected, he wo[ul]d with ple[a]sure resing³⁹⁷ to your son Conolly,³⁹⁸ which I thought wo[ul]d have made all matters e[a]sey. For I find my nephew Conyngham co[ul]d not be praveled on to bring in any McCa[u]sland. Soe as this was a matter [that] co[ul]d be done among themselves without consulting anybody, I was pl[e]ased with it, but senas that you told me he wo[ul]d not resing and as your son Conolly is I hear landed in Dublin, he says he will stand and that his cousen shall not resing to him. I have not seen him, but this is the account I have from Dublin.

I must Madam tell you I think its hard usige³⁹⁹ to put w[e]apons in to hands [damaged] famally, and that the memory of my dear husband⁴⁰⁰ and the benyfactor to your famally sho[ul]d so so[o]ne meet with this treatm[en]t, soe so[o]ne after the death of your husband, that I am sure would have done everything in his pow[e]r to sarve me. If your son insists opon giving me opposition, he is wrong advised and takes those for his fri[e]nds that are nather⁴⁰¹ soe to him nor my int[e]rest.

Soe I wo[ul]d have you writ[e] to your son not to insist opon giving me opposition, and that it will lo[o]ke ill to the world to have a young man make his forst apparanc[e]s in the world with an act of ingratitude to his best fri[e]nds and banyfactor. Had your husband resinged to his son Conolly when I wo[ul]d have had him, all this had bine over.

I hope all this affear will end to your sattisfaction and mine and that your son will consider better of this matter. I am dear madam your affactionate humble sarvant,

Ka: Conolly

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**149. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE,
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, LONDON, 6 JULY 1737**

I am I think 2 letters in my dear sisters deet,⁴⁰² wan [dated the] 22[nd], the other [the] 25[th], which came all most together and as I have littell to say in answer but that we ear all well – I thank God – I wrot[e] to you the 22[n]d.

I am glad you think Master Conyngham⁴⁰³ a promising boy. I pray God make him a good man. I am at both great p[a]ines and expence to keep the borrow of Newtown[limavady] for him, for wear it in his father's⁴⁰⁴ hands it had bine sold long agoe.

As to our we[a]ther, we have had no r[a]ine for at least the[s]e 2 months and hotter we[a]ther then I ever remember, it quit[e] feants⁴⁰⁵ me, for I can bare cold but not

³⁹⁷ *Lege* resign.

³⁹⁸ Conolly McCausland (1713–94) of Fruithill, Co. Londonderry, was the son of Col Robert (c. 1683–1734) and Hannah McCausland (*née* Moore) (b. c. 1689): see notes 389 and 392 above.

³⁹⁹ *Lege* usage.

⁴⁰⁰ William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁰¹ *Lege* neither.

⁴⁰² *Lege* debt.

⁴⁰³ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

⁴⁰⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴⁰⁵ *Lege* faints.

heat. These days past we have had no sunshine but the closest disagree[ab]le we[a]ther you can immagin[e]. Noe such thing as hay, nor Spring corn, tho[ugh] wheat and bear⁴⁰⁶ is tollerably good they say.

Sister Jones has not return[ed] senas I wrot[e] to you last Satterday. My cousen Curry⁴⁰⁷ and her famally wear soe kind to come hear to make me a visit which is a great comfort to me for I love them much.

I have not any news for you. I hear the jackalet is landed. I will not send you a bill for it till I can send you your quarter's allowance dew nixt month, for I have not soe much in Goulds hands but my tennent will pay his rent to him so[o]ne. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] I have got the heed ack with this hot we[a]ther.

NLI, MS 41,578/10

150. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, DUBLIN, 18 AUGUST 1737

I had my dear sisters of 2[n]d last wick; I wo[ul]d not answer it till I co[ul]d say some thing of Mr and Mrs Conyngham.⁴⁰⁸ He came to town the Wednesday affter she landed, came to her the Thursday evening, she came hear afterwards. She sayd never 2 p[e]opell wear in greater confussion. He was displ[a]ased she sho[ul]d have made a secerit⁴⁰⁹ of her comeing and taken soe bad a lodging. She sayd the lodgings was good enough for her and his curcomstances, but the nixt day they take very han[d]some lodgings at a moydear⁴¹⁰ a wick. He seems much pl[e]ased she is come and they ear very well together. She wo[ul]d not tell any body her lodgings but Miss Burten,⁴¹¹ soe that no body went to see her. B[u]t now I beli[e]ve all her fri[e]nds will, for yesterday my cousen Curry and daughters⁴¹² and Miss Burton did. They say he lo[o]kes better then wan co[ul]d expect. She has got him to consult a docter and says they will not stay longer hear than the docter puts him in to a method which she will make him stick too. They doe not sleep together as I think Col[one]ll Dallaway⁴¹³ made him promise he wo[ul]d not.

When the account went to Slean,⁴¹⁴ the p[e]opell in the town put on boon fires⁴¹⁵ and nixt day 4 [?] were sent off, for he was soe good to keep 2 other p[e]opells

⁴⁰⁶ *Lege* bere, a cereal. Originally bere, beir or bear was a generic Lowland Scots word for barley of any kind.

⁴⁰⁷ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 72, note 94.

⁴⁰⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁰⁹ *Lege* secret. In her letter dated 11 July 1737, Mary Jones (1675–1765) urged her sister Jane Bonnell to inform them in Ireland of the purpose of Constance's visit, observing that 'we ear surprised that you shod not have tekn som noties of it in your letter, for she [Katherine] thinks she wod hardly [have] undertaken it without your knowledge ... what cood put such a jurney in her thoughts': Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 11 July 1737 (NLI, MS 41,577/4).

⁴¹⁰ *Lege* moidore.

⁴¹¹ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁴¹² Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 72, note 94. Her daughters were Martha (Matty) (1704–c. 1764), Sarah (Sally) (1709–79), Mary (Molly) (1710–74), Elizabeth (Betty) (1715–91) Corry.

⁴¹³ Col Robert Dalaway (1669–1740): see letter no.39, note 454.

⁴¹⁴ Conyngham Hall, Slane, Co. Meath.

⁴¹⁵ *Lege* bonfires.

homes for compeny to wan another. He has I hear promised his [word missing] 50 pound a year. I wish he wo[ul]d allow soe much to his son.⁴¹⁶ This is all I can tell you of them. When I know more you shall. When she landed and came hear I gave her a bill of twenty po[un]ds. I thought she rece[i]ved it very colly, sayd she did not want it. I tolde her I was glad she did not, but parhaps she might, for I was as[s]ured her husband co[ul]d not that day command a g[u]iney of his one.⁴¹⁷ Col[one]ll Dallaway told her the same to his knowledge.

I long to hear from you and that your cold is better. We have sad cold starney⁴¹⁸ we[a]ther. Mr Conolly and lady⁴¹⁹ a fortnight a goe was put in to Blewmorriss,⁴²⁰ stayed there ten days, got to the heed⁴²¹ by land whear they still ear which gives me great consarn considering her condition, not a month to reckon, and still a high contrary wind. The packets going off I can add no more but sister Jones is well and all my cousin Currys famally. But my dear sweet Kety⁴²² is ill with a sad cough that frightens me. I am my dear sisters ever, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

151. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 SEPTEMBER 1737

I had my dear sisters of the 2[n]d of A[u]g[us]t last night. I cam[e] hear a wick agoe and intend to stay 8 days. Mr Conolly and lady⁴²³ went the same to Layslip.⁴²⁴ They dined hear a Sunday and as last Tu[e]sday they wear to dine hear to settell all our goeing to Dublin for the winter and her laying in, which was to have bine e[i]ther the Thursday or Friday, but behold at six a clock I was sent for and before 9 Lady Ann had a fine littell spri[gh]tly boy.⁴²⁵ She came by her best account near 3 wicks so[o]nner then she sho[ul]d, but the child and she as well for the time as can be expected. You may beli[e]ve the confussion we wear in. All her things and the child's in Dublin, no midwife as we thought with her, but there chanced to be wan in the house that came to make a visit to the sarv[an]ts, soe all ended well and is well. And this will keep me in the co[un]tery till she is able to goe to Dublin which [will] make at le[a]st up my months stay I had in Dublin, expecting them.

As to Mr and Mrs Conyngham,⁴²⁶ they ear allways together. He never l[e]aves her but they ear not yet gone to Slean tho[ugh] she pressis every day. They both dined

⁴¹⁶ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

⁴¹⁷ *Lege* own.

⁴¹⁸ *Lege* stormy.

⁴¹⁹ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴²⁰ *Lege* Beaumaris, Anglesey, Wales.

⁴²¹ *Lege* Holyhead, Anglesey, Wales.

⁴²² Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71): see letter no. 97, note 500.

⁴²³ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴²⁴ *Lege* Leixlip, the Irish residence of William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴²⁵ Thomas (1737–1803), only surviving son of William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97), and eventual heir to the Conolly estate.

⁴²⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and his wife Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

2 days a goe at cousen Nisbets.⁴²⁷ Mighty chirfull both of them. If she thought the small sume worth her exceptince⁴²⁸ I am sattisfeyed. She is a good womon, born to a hard fortune and I trully pity her.

Pray let me know when I pay[e]d you your last quarter allowance for as I did not think to have stay[e]d a wick hear I have left all my books and papers in Dublin which can not be got till I doe, and as I owe for the jacklet (which I like very well), I wo[ul]d send you a bill for both. I expect Mr Burten⁴²⁹ nixt wick. His wife⁴³⁰ still in the same miserable way, I doe not hear she has spoke[n] a word these 2 or 3 months, but they all think she can if she pl[e]ased. I h[e]ard yesterday from sister Jones. She is well but her made⁴³¹ leying in soe she cannot come to me. I shall say noe more till I hear from you but be as[s]ured I am most affectionatly yours,
Ka: Conolly

[PS] I find by Goulds acc[oun]t I drew a fifty po[u]nd bill for you the forst of May that I believe was for last a year.

NLI, MS 41,578/10

152. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 SEPTEMBER 1737

Its a great while senas I wrot[e] to my dear sister, not senas the 4th and your last was the 26[th] of August, I long to hear from you. There is now 3 packits dew and I hope by them to hear from you. I have no news to tell you. Lady Ann Conolly⁴³² recovers as well as ever any wan did. The childrin ear all well. The boy⁴³³ not yet christ[e]ned, but I think nixt wick will, and in 8 or ten days affter we shall all goe to Dublin.

I hear Mr Conyngham and lady⁴³⁴ is still in Dublin. She very uneasy at there stay. He is very sivell in being much with her and I doe not hear he has stayed out wan night very leat. She sups about 12 and they goe to bed about 2. This is [all] I hear of them.

I saw Col[one]l Conyngham⁴³⁵ twist at Layslip, he has not bine hear yet. When I saw him he had seen his sister⁴³⁶ but wanst. I expect him and Mr Burton⁴³⁷ hear to day. If they come before I seall this you shall hear some thing of them. Mr Burton I hear came to Dublin a Monday night, his wife⁴³⁸ just in the same sad way. Sister Jones is hear and very well. I'll say no more till I hear further, but that I am most sencerly my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

⁴²⁷ Unidentified members of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

⁴²⁸ *Lege* acceptance.

⁴²⁹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴³⁰ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁴³¹ *Lege* maid.

⁴³² Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴³³ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴³⁴ Williams (1698–1738) and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴³⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴³⁶ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁴³⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1737).

⁴³⁸ Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1744).

[PS] 22[nd] Nather⁴³⁹ Mr Burton nor Hary Conyngham came last night nor noe packet, tho[ugh] I had a full house – Dr James Candiss,⁴⁴⁰ Mr Conolly, Col[one]l Cornwall[is]⁴⁴¹ and 2 or 3 more dined hear yesterday and lay hear and is still hear, K: C

NLI, MS 41,578/10

153. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 SEPTEMBER 1737

I have 3 letters from my dear sister, wan of the 12[th], the 14[th], and 19[th] and they came all together. Your last gives me great tr[o]uble both for the dear boy⁴⁴² and for his good mother who came hear that day. She had the same account from her sister⁴⁴³ as she gave you. She is a most extr[a]ordinary woman and tho[ugh] you might see her heart was bracking,⁴⁴⁴ she carryed her sorrow with that even[n]ess and tamper⁴⁴⁵ every body did admire her. God comfort her if she sho[ul]d loss⁴⁴⁶ him for I think she has no other prospect of comfort in this world.

Yours of the 12[th] needs noe answer it being only about not hearing from me, and as to yours of the 14th, you aske for H[enry] C[onyngham]; he is landed but that I told you in my last.

I think as so[o]ne as I go to Dublin I'll send you a bill for [your] August quarter [allowance] and the jackalet, but I fear I have noe mon[e]y in Goulds hands. However I'll draw nixt wick if I doe not goe then to Dublin, but I wo[ul]d rather doe it there than hear beca[u]se there accounts is there. But you most not be with out your mon[e]y longer.

Yesterday Mr Conolly's young son⁴⁴⁷ was c[h]rist[e]ned. The duck⁴⁴⁸ and Lord Tillimore⁴⁴⁹ was the godfathers and I sto[o]d for my sister Pearson. Its called Thomas.

My ness Conyngham told me she was to goe to Slean as this day I gave her another 20 [pound] bill to take her out of town. He has bought [a] couch⁴⁵⁰ and 7 horsis and

⁴³⁹ *Lege* neither.

⁴⁴⁰ Unidentified.

⁴⁴¹ Either Maj. Gen. Hon. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Hon. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76): see letter no. 121, note 99.

⁴⁴² William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37), son of Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) and Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴⁴³ Anne Onslow (*née* Middleton) (c. 1706–72) who married Denzil Onslow (b. c. 1700) of Drungewick Manor House, Loxwood, Sussex in 1730.

⁴⁴⁴ *Lege* breaking.

⁴⁴⁵ *Lege* temper.

⁴⁴⁶ *Lege* lose.

⁴⁴⁷ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴⁴⁸ *Lege* duke; Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset (1688–1765).

⁴⁴⁹ *Lege* Tullamore. Charles Moore, 1st and only earl of Charleville (1712–64), was an Irish peer and freemason. He was the son of John Moore, 1st Baron Moore of Tullamore, and Mary Lum. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and succeeded his father in the barony in 1725. He married Hester Coghill, daughter of James Coghill and Anne Pearson, on 13 Oct. 1737: GEC.

⁴⁵⁰ *Lege* coach.

harness, but [it is] not payd for. He got all for about 60 po[u]nd. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] Sister Jones is very well.

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154. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 OCTOBER 1737

Last packets brought me yours of 22[n]d September with the mallancholy account of the death of our poor young hopefell nephew,⁴⁵¹ indeed it shock[e]d me much. I h[e]ard it the night before yours came to hand by an express that Hary Conyngham sent hear by his unfortunate[e] sisters⁴⁵² desire. Nixt morning Mr Burton⁴⁵³ went to Dublin by 8 a clock to see them, he is not yet returned. Soe till he doth, I can give you no account of them. Sure if the unhap[p]y father will think at all this most sho[c]k him. I pity the poor woman to be soe fare⁴⁵⁴ from her son, God comfort her. Mr Burton wrot[e] the night he went to town of the kind and gen[e]rouss manner Mr and Mrs Onslow⁴⁵⁵ acted at Winchester, God reward them.

I think the poor boy, with all the good qu[a]litys and promising hopes, is a most unexpressable loss to our famally, but I have had such and meny lossis that I can not be much moved now, nor is [it] lickly⁴⁵⁶ I shall long sarvive⁴⁵⁷ my fri[e]nds. I have all re[a]dy survived what I never thought I co[ul]d, but God is all suffisant and marcyfull and has granted me a long life with very tollarable health, for which I bless his holly name and submits to what ever he thinks fit and best for me.

I shall not seall this letter till I see Mr Burton. I have weated senas Satterday for Mr Burtons comeing hear and as this is Monday evening and he [has] not come nor has he wrot[e] a word – tho[ugh] every day there is p[e]opell comeing from my house in Dublin hear – we fancy he is gone with them unfort[u]net p[e]opell⁴⁵⁸ to Slean, but how ever that be I send this letter a way and will weat no longer. A Sunday sennet⁴⁵⁹ when ness Conyngham came hear, as she was goeing in to the couch⁴⁶⁰ I wrot[e] her a noot and put in a 20 po[u]nd bill which I know she wanted much and wo[ul]d on this mallancolly oc[c]as[s]ion, for Mr Burton told me they had not a pen[n]y as he co[ul]d find.

⁴⁵¹ William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37), son of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767), died in September 1737.

⁴⁵² Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁵³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴⁵⁴ *Lege* far.

⁴⁵⁵ Anne Onslow (*née* Middleton) (c. 1706–1772) and Denzil Onslow (b. c. 1700), of Drungewick Manor House, Loxwood, Sussex, England, Constance Conyngham's sister and brother-in-law: see letter no. 153, note 443.

⁴⁵⁶ *Lege* likely.

⁴⁵⁷ *Lege* survive.

⁴⁵⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) and Constance (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁵⁹ *Lege* se'nnight, the archaic version for a week or a period of seven days.

⁴⁶⁰ *Lege* coach.

I made your complem[en]ts to Mr Conolly and lady.⁴⁶¹ They desired me to return theres and thank you. She is perfectly recov[e]red⁴⁶² and has bine twist hear. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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155. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 NOVEMBER 1737

I had my dear sisters of the 20[th] of last month last Satherday, and as I have not wrot[e] to you this 16 days past I wo[ul]d delay noe longer. But wan re[a]son was Mr Burton⁴⁶³ wrot[e] to you last wick and I have had a very sick famally. Mr Conolly, Lady Ann and Miss Burton⁴⁶⁴ all very ill with this odd cold that has efected all p[e]opell hear, as it has done they say in England. I did not keep my bed as they all did for a wick, but I was ill and saw non[e] of them for six days, for as I never goe upstears in this house [and] they co[ul]d not come down. Miss Burton fell ill yesterday, went to bed at 2 a clock and fell into a great sweet.⁴⁶⁵ Continuiud in it till ten and she [was] cold; her faver⁴⁶⁶ went off. She had a good night and the docters says all will be over in 2 or 3 days.

I have bine very ill these 3 or 4 days with a p[a]ine in my side. Tho[ugh] I sent for a docter it was more to place⁴⁶⁷ other p[e]opell then my self, for as it is a p[a]ine I am well used to and has had it long. But its better, more e[a]sey ever[y] day soe you need not be une[a]sey about me.

I saw poor niss Conyngham yesterday. Says she is better of her cold, but she lo[o]kes sadly. He⁴⁶⁸ I hear rack[ets] on, sallys out about ten, comes in if e[a]rilly at 2 but gen[e]rally 4 or 5 and this constantly.

As to the letter you mention from Mrs Onslow,⁴⁶⁹ no such letter ever came to me so pray set that matter right, for I as[s]ure you [if] it wo[ul]d be, I sho[ul]d never forgive my self to neglect being everything that is sivell to her and all poor Mrs Conynghams fri[e]nds. Sencis⁴⁷⁰ writing this fare⁴⁷¹ ness Conyngham was hear and as[s]ur[e]s me she saw the letter from her sister to me and that she sent by a sarv[an]t of hers that came that day from Sleane to goe there with them. But as the mallancolly ac[coun]t of her son's death came, they put off there j[o]urney and she made her

⁴⁶¹ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴⁶² Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) had fully recovered from the birth of her son Thomas (1737–1803): see letter no 151.

⁴⁶³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴⁶⁴ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97), and Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁴⁶⁵ *Lege* sweat.

⁴⁶⁶ *Lege* fever.

⁴⁶⁷ *Lege* please.

⁴⁶⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁴⁶⁹ Anne Onslow (*née* Middleton) (c. 1706–72) who had the care of William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37) when he died: see letter no. 154.

⁴⁷⁰ *Lege* since.

⁴⁷¹ *Lege* far.

brother writ[e] to me and sent her sisters letter with Harys⁴⁷² and my newspapers with that man. And I as[s]ure you Mrs Burton⁴⁷³ and other compeny was siting with me when I got Harys letter and no other. Not the news letters. She says she will inquire of the sarv[an]ts about them, for we wond[e]red the news papers did not come. Soe you know all that I doe so pray set me right in this affair.

Col[one]l Cornwallis⁴⁷⁴ l[e]aves this the latter end of this wick and he tak[e]s for you 17 yards of cloth for shifts for you there – there is a hooll⁴⁷⁵ or 2 in it but it was an accident – and 5 yards of fine cloth for 2 aprons, and 2 yard and a half for slives,⁴⁷⁶ and fifty g[u]ineys – 25 for your last quarter to pay for the jackalet, the rest to keep in your hands for me. When I say 25, I mean g[u]ineys for yourself, not po[u]nds.

I am quit[e] tyred as I beli[e]ve you ear by the time you reed this scroull.⁴⁷⁷ Sister Jones is in town. She came when I did. She is well, has as yet escaped the cold. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

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156. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 5 NOVEMBER 1737

I wrot[e] to my dear sister 3 days agoe that I wo[uld] send you by Col[one]l Cornwallis fifty g[u]ineys but that upon looking for g[u]ineys I co[ul]d not e[a]sely get soe meny. I have in a box with a littell Ierish threed⁴⁷⁸ sent you in Portingall Gould,⁴⁷⁹ 14 pisses and a half which makes up the fifty g[u]iney to some small matter. Soe take for yourself 26 po[u]nd ten shillin[g]s which is about 25 g[u]ineys, and pay for the jacklet and then you will have some small matter of mine in your hands. I wo[ul]d not writ[e] soe so[o]ne but to alter the mistake of the fifty g[u]ineys. We ear all well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/10

157. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 NOVEMBER 1737

By 4 packets that came in 2 days a goe I had my dear sisters of the 27[th] of last month with the sad account of your over turn. It was a great marcy you ever get [through] it and I am now very impatient to hear again from you to know how matters is with you, which I hope I shall hear by the nixt packets.

Sunday sennet⁴⁸⁰ I sent you by Col[one]l Cornwallis⁴⁸¹ and wrot[e] you tow letters

⁴⁷² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴⁷³ Katherine may be referring to Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁴⁷⁴ Either Maj. Gen. Hon. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Hon. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76): see letter no. 121, note 99.

⁴⁷⁵ *Lege* hole.

⁴⁷⁶ *Lege* sleeves.

⁴⁷⁷ *Lege* scrawl.

⁴⁷⁸ *Lege* Irish thread.

⁴⁷⁹ *Lege* Portuguese gold.

⁴⁸⁰ *Lege* se'nnight.

⁴⁸¹ Either Maj. Gen. Hon. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Hon. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76): see letter no. 121, note 99.

with the account of the mon[e]y sent and in what coyn⁴⁸² the Gould was, for I have now no mon[e]y in Gould and Nisbits hand. I sent you allsoe some cloth and some threed and I have this day sent you some blach sheat.⁴⁸³ I beli[e]ve the col[one]l is in London by this day soe that I hope before this raches⁴⁸⁴ you, [you] will rec[e]ive your mon[e]y and cloth.

Yesterday I saw poor neiss Conyngham.⁴⁸⁵ She is a wonderfull good woman and my heart bleeds for her. She bears all things like a Christian and a great phillosfore.⁴⁸⁶

Now I most tell you my heart is very full, for this wick past my dear littell Willey Conolly⁴⁸⁷ has bine in a wack⁴⁸⁸ deying way. We have had docters sent to Layslip to him every day. Some thinks it is his teeth at forst, for he has 4 a coting,⁴⁸⁹ but he has the most vallant⁴⁹⁰ cough that ever was h[e]ard, nather takes n[o]urishm[en]t nor gets any rest and soe wack he is confined to his cradell. Mr Conolly never let Lady Ann know it till last night. She is in great tr[o]uble and went there e[a]rly this morning and I shall goe to morrow there. My consarn wo[ul]d be great for any of the[i]r childrin but o[h], its a William Conolly that I must berry⁴⁹¹ by my dear Mr Conolly.⁴⁹² This thought sho[c]ks me gr[e]atly, but I hope I shall submit as I ought to doe.

I have inclose[d] you a paper that was leatly sent to me. I can swear it true in most perticklers.⁴⁹³ It came without a name but I know the author and he knows me very well. I can add no more but to as[s]ure my dear sister I am most affectionate[ly], Ka: Conolly

[PS] Let me hear from you as so[o]ne as you get the things. Sister Jones and all your fri[e]nds ear all well.

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158. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 20 DECEMBER 1737

I had my dear sisters of the 2[n]d, and in that you sayd you wo[ul]d writ[e] when you rece[i]ved your things from London, which I thought you wo[ul]d have done some time ago, which made me delay writing soe long, and 3 packets come in senas

⁴⁸² *Lege* coin.

⁴⁸³ *Lege* bleached sheet.

⁴⁸⁴ *Lege* reaches.

⁴⁸⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁴⁸⁶ *Lege* philosopher.

⁴⁸⁷ William (Billy) Conolly (1734–37), son of William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴⁸⁸ *Lege* weak.

⁴⁸⁹ *Lege* cutting.

⁴⁹⁰ *Lege* violent.

⁴⁹¹ *Lege* bury.

⁴⁹² Referring to her husband William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁴⁹³ *Lege* particulars.

and no letters from you [which] tr[o]ubles me for fear you sho[ul]d be ill as most p[e]opell ear hear with colds. I got sister Jones to writ[e] to you to let you know that not hearing from you was the re[a]son I did not writ[e]. But I co[ul]d forbear no longer in inquiring how you doe which I hope I shall doe before this rachies⁴⁹⁴ you. I shall lay by the account tho[ugh] its of no consequens. On secoon[d] thoughts, I have sent it back to you and desires you to take five po[u]nd to yourself, then remeans⁴⁹⁵ in your hands for my use wan po[u]nd tow shillin[g]s.

I sup[p]ose you most put on some m[o]urning for the Queen⁴⁹⁶ as all the world dose⁴⁹⁷ hear and I send you this to help you to buy it. I gave sister Jones as much for the same purposs but she is gone dubbell⁴⁹⁸ that sume and tho[ugh] I am still and ever will be in a sort of m[o]urning,⁴⁹⁹ yet the allt[e]ration on this occasion has cost me a gre[at] deall of mon[e]y. Miss Burton⁵⁰⁰ was in mo[u]rning as deep before soe I had but littell more expence about her. And perhaps you wo[ul]d not beli[e]ve [me] if I sho[ul]d tell you her m[o]urning, her makes, and her manes,⁵⁰¹ when she went into m[o]urning for her mother,⁵⁰² cost me above fifty po[u]nd.

I think I wrot[e] you of the death of poor master Willey Conolly.⁵⁰³ Indeed it gr[e]ived me and the more soe that his name was William, but Gods will must be submit[t]ed to. They have 2 fine children⁵⁰⁴ left – the youngest a very spri[g]tly baby – and for my dear Kety that is now by me, she is the sweetest child I ever saw and the most devarting.

All my famally is well. I shall decamp from this in a day or tow till affter the [Christmas] hollydays. I saw poor good ness Conyngham 2 days agoe. She says she is prity well and in[d]eed she looks much better. He⁵⁰⁵ lives on as usell⁵⁰⁶ and his spiting a pint of blood in a day or tow moves him or alarms him no more then it wo[ul]d doe me to blow my nose.

Pray writ[e] so[o]ne and if you wo[ul]d have the quarter [allowance] dew the forst of No[vem]b[e]r last, let me know it and I will draw on Mr Gould and Nisbet for it as so[o]ne as I hear from you. I have made this [remainder of letter missing].

NLI, MS 41,578/10

⁴⁹⁴ *Lege* reaches.

⁴⁹⁵ *Lege* remains.

⁴⁹⁶ Following the death of Queen Caroline (1683–1737), wife of George II.

⁴⁹⁷ *Lege* does.

⁴⁹⁸ *Lege* double.

⁴⁹⁹ Following the death of her husband William Conolly (1662–1729), Katherine remained in mourning or half mourning for the rest of her life.

⁵⁰⁰ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁵⁰¹ *Lege* maid's and mans.

⁵⁰² Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737)

⁵⁰³ William Conolly(1734–37): see letter no. 157, note 487.

⁵⁰⁴ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and Thomas (1737–1803) Conolly.

⁵⁰⁵ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) was dying from the effects of venereal disease.

⁵⁰⁶ *Lege* usual.

159. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 FEBRUARY 1737/[38]

By the packets that cume hear last Thursday I had my dear sisters of the 20[th] of last month and I hav[e] wrot[e] to you the post before. I was in noe heart to writ[e] soe so[o]ne a gain but haveing a minnets lasure⁵⁰⁷ I writ[e] to tell you I am very sor[r]y your land lady has given you warning [to quit], besid[e]s the tr[o]uble and expences of lo[o]king out for a plaas⁵⁰⁸ convinently for you. My tr[o]uble is that as that place agreed with you I fear another plaas may not. This I as[s]ure you gives me tr[o]uble and I hope the womon may change her mind, tho[ugh] wanst a warning is given its hard to stay. I will nixt wick send you a bill for this quarter [allowance] knowing that you will want mon[e]y on this accasion⁵⁰⁹ and shall long to know what you think of dowing,⁵¹⁰ for I am une[a]sey about you.

All your fri[e]nds ear well. I sopose you have h[e]ard that Miss Stafford the only child of Peny Leslie and Stafford was last wick mar[r]yed to Arter Hill,⁵¹¹ a good ma[t]ch on both sides.

I am in a great hurry the packets goeing off. Indeed poor Manly⁵¹² is much wanted. I am my dear sister ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

160. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 MARCH 1737/[38]

I have 2 letters from my dear sister to answer. The forst Febr[uar]y 22[nd], the last the 1st of March and the[y] came allmost together, but I have had a cold and sore eyes which made writing une[a]sey to me. As to the forst, as it related to your l[e]aveing the place whear you now ear I need say no more of it, but, as that ear agreed with you I am sor[r]y at your being to remove. In your last you tell me you had mine with the fifty po[u]nd bill. I am glad you have got it beca[u]se I know it will be of sarvis to you now on your removeing.

As to S[i]r Hary Kings,⁵¹³ there is no pressing him for he is you know not a littell possitive when he says a thing.

Its very kind in cousen Hamilton⁵¹⁴ to make you soe kind an offer. I wish it wear in your power to except⁵¹⁵ of it, or mine to contrebut[e] towards it. If tow hundred

⁵⁰⁷ *Lege* leisure.

⁵⁰⁸ *Lege* place.

⁵⁰⁹ *Lege* occasion.

⁵¹⁰ *Lege* doing.

⁵¹¹ Anne Stafford (1715–99), daughter of Edmund Francis (1624–1723) and Penelope Stafford (*née* Leslie) (b. 1677), married Arthur Hill-Trevor (*ante* 1693–1771), son of Michael (b. *c.* 1672–1699) and Ann Hill (*née* Trevor) (d. 1747), of Hillsborough, Co. Down.

⁵¹² Isaac Manley, formerly postmaster general in Ireland: see letter no. 11, note 84.

⁵¹³ Sir Henry King (1680–1740/41), 3rd bt, was son of Sir Robert King, 1st bt, and his wife Frances Gore; MP for Boyle, 1707–27, and Co. Roscommon, 1727–40/41, he succeeded as 3rd bt on 19 March 1720. Jane Bonnell held a bill on his brother's estate which was a matter of dispute over many years: see introduction, p. xv.

⁵¹⁴ Unidentified, but this may refer to a bequest made by 'cousen Jeny Hamilton' who left Jane Bonnell £200 in her will: see letter no. 211.

⁵¹⁵ *Lege* accept.

or 300 po[u]nd of the six I owe you by my bond payable affter my death wo[u]d doe it I wo[u]d indever⁵¹⁶ to reass[ess] it hear and e[i]ther have it indorset⁵¹⁷ on the bond you have, or send you a bond for the remender.⁵¹⁸ If this can be of use to you I shall most willing[ly] indever to doe it. The packet is just makeing up soe I can say no more but, I am my dear sisters ever affect[ionate], Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

161. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 5 APRIL 1738

I had my dear sisters of the 22[n]d of March sence I came hear which is about a wick agoe. I wrot[e] to you before I left Dublin and has littell to say now more then to tell you I am prity well. As to you[r letter], it require[e]s but littell answer till I hear you ear fixed. And the deyiting⁵¹⁹ yourself may be une[a]sey at forst, perhaps you may not dislike it affterwords. And as you ear beloved by the n[e]ighborhood, [that] will make it the less erksome to you, but I have my fears that you will starve yourself. But pray doe not, for I will make up the diff[e]rince between starveing and not with twenty po[u]nds a year more then you have now till you can have some more comfortable way of dispossing of yourself.

Sister Jones is hear and very well as is Frank Burton.⁵²⁰ All gives there sarvics to you. I am my dear sisters ever affect[ionate], Ka: Conolly

[PS] Wan [person] goeing to Dublin makes me [write] in heast.

NLI, MS 41,578/11

162. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 APRIL 1738

I had my dear sisters yesterday of the 11th. I was very uneasey in not hearing from you nor I did not writ[e] senas the 5th, but I did immagin it was your removeing hind[e]red me.

I am glad you have got into a quiet cline⁵²¹ house and tho[ugh] it be tr[o]ublesome to you to think of deyeting⁵²² yourself, if you have a discreet sarv[an]t about you she may make it e[a]sey. And as I told you in my last, I will in som[e] small matter help the expence of it, but for the tr[o]uble I doe not beli[e]ve in the whole you will find much diff[e]rances as to the expence. I will send you a bill for the jack[l]et nixt month and your May quarters allowances together, and from May forward you shall have that littell addition I told you off. Soe I will not stop your May quarter for what I sent you in Febr[uar]y, soe I doe this that you may not starve yourself. I

⁵¹⁶ *Lege* endeavour.

⁵¹⁷ *Lege* endorsed.

⁵¹⁸ *Lege* remainder.

⁵¹⁹ *Lege* dieting.

⁵²⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵²¹ *Lege* clean. Jane Bonnell was now living at Writtle, near Chelmsford, Essex.

⁵²² *Lege* dieting.

h[e]ard just now that my jackolet is landed and in the custome house, for which I thank you for your care.

Sister Jones is hear, ness Conyngham is still in Dublin, poor womon how I pity her. Col[one]l Conyngham⁵²³ is gone to [the] north and his brother⁵²⁴ was to have gone but not a pen[n]y to take him there. Had he gone I sho[ul]d have braught⁵²⁵ her⁵²⁶ hear till his return. Mr Burton⁵²⁷ is in Dublin, he left this last Monday. He is a man of much bissness – he loves Dublin much.

As to poor sister Pearson, she has a miserable time of it; besides her mallancolly she has had the gout, rumitissam, and collick most sever[e]ly all this winter. She begines to [go] down stayers now. Lady Ann Conolly⁵²⁸ was there about a month agoe and then she made a shift to goe down stayers but relapsed senas. I intend to goe there in May and sister Jones for a fortnight. All your fri[e]nds is well. I am called to compeny. I am my dear sisters ever affect[ionate], K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/11

163. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 MAY 1738

I had my dear sisters of the 19[th] of last month and am pl[e]ased you like your new habitation. In a littell time you will be reconciled to it, and forst it will be une[a]sey to you. I sho[ul]d be very glad your old landlady did repent her. I l[e]ave this a Monday or Tu[e]sday, shall stay some days in Dublin and then to Barmore for a fortnight, soe hear for the rest of the summer.

I have drawn a bill on Nisbet⁵²⁹ for your May quarter [allowance] and the jacklet. I think the jackalet came to some thing more than 19 po[u]nd but what more I can not remember. But that there may be no mistake I have drawn the bill [for] forty five po[u]nd which pays the jackalet and your one⁵³⁰ 25 po[u]nd, and your nixt August quarter [allowance] shall be 30 po[u]nd, to be continued while I live. I wrote to you in my last that I wo[ul]d commence from this May.

By the forst I get goeing to London I'll send you a piss of 2 yard wide di[a]per [cloth] for tabell cloths for your one littell table, for a littell wan I'll sware it will be, and I fear as littell on it.

Unhap[p]y Willi[am]s C[onyngham] has bine at deaths door, such quantety of blood and currupten⁵³¹ came up as has not bine [seen] yeet. He had a surgin and 2 docters. They told him if he doth not live a more regor⁵³² life they can doe him noe good. He is now as well as usell. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

⁵²³ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵²⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵²⁵ *Lege* brought.

⁵²⁶ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁵²⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵²⁸ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵²⁹ Referring to the London financial firm of Gould & Nesbit: see letter no. 69, note 21.

⁵³⁰ *Lege* own.

⁵³¹ *Lege* corruption.

⁵³² *Lege* regular.

164. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 AUGUST 1738

I had my dear sisters of the 13[th] of July 2 packets agoe but wo[ul]d not writ[e] til this day that I send you your bill for thurty po[u]nds. Do what you will with the 25 po[u]nd but I charg[e] you [to] lay out the five po[u]nd as its intended, for I often am une[a]sey on that scour.

Mr Conolly and famally⁵³³ is goeing again for England and its an old and true saying [that] a rolling stone never gathers moss, which is too sure with them, for all spent and littell or no deets payd, which grieves me much. English wives ought to bring larg[e] portions which I never h[e]ard was our case, for its all to come. She is a good woman I most say and he he [*sic*] [is the] very most indulgent husband in the world – this to yourself.

I doe not remember who caryed any things to you. I am allways glad when I can get an opurtunity, and its often shifted from wan gentleman to another, but I'll send you more when Mr Conolly[^s] lugige⁵³⁴ goes off. I have wrot[e] to Mr Burton⁵³⁵ for more.

I hear nothing but that they ear well now at Sleau.⁵³⁶ Sister Jones⁵³⁷ l[e]av[e]s this tomorrow to goe for some time to her sons; he, his wife and Ketty⁵³⁸ is now hear. She is a fine fear⁵³⁹ child. I hope they begine to thrive. He is might[y] car[e]ful and a great maniger; had he bine soe some years agoe he wo[ul]d not have bine [pressed?] to the meny stra[i]ts [he] has gone throw. His wife is a very prity good womon and very car[e]ful; her sister⁵⁴⁰ helps them when she is there. I have nothing more to add but to as[s]ure my dear sister I am most affectionately yours, Ka C

[PS] let me know if the tea toyells is lost that I may send you more.

NLI, MS 41,578/11

165. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 17 OCTOBER 1738

I am not 2 hours come from Beemore⁵⁴¹ whear I went this day sennet and thought to be back as Satterday, but hearing poor unfortanat Willi[am]s Conyngham was deying. You will see by all the inclosed that I have done my part. I am tyerd with my j[o]urney soe this most be a short letter.

⁵³³ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97). Their children at that time were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Thomas (1737–1803).

⁵³⁴ *Lege* luggage.

⁵³⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵³⁶ Williams (1698–1738) and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) and their son William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1721–37).

⁵³⁷ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵³⁸ Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Richard (1662–1729) and Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765), his wife Elenor [unknown] and their daughter, Kitty (b. 1740).

⁵³⁹ *Lege* fair.

⁵⁴⁰ Unidentified.

⁵⁴¹ Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the Pearson residence.

I saw the docter last night as he came from Slean.⁵⁴² He told me that he co[ul]d not last long and he hears that he has made a will and settellment,⁵⁴³ bine very kind to his wife, has made her sool⁵⁴⁴ exe[cu]t[o]r [and] has named a gentellmen, [but] I did not hear how they wear to assiste her in her affears. [He] has ordered all his deets⁵⁴⁵ to be payed and then to his brother⁵⁴⁶ what will be left. This I hear but I know noe more.

Senas I went to Beamore I had yours of the 2[n]d and as it require[s] no pertickler answer, only if sister Jones takes any thing ill of me, she doth me wrang,⁵⁴⁷ for I have done her and hers great kindness but never hurt.⁵⁴⁸ But my word was given for another to home⁵⁴⁹ I am under meny, meny, obligations, but⁵⁵⁰ which I have reli[e]ved severall from starveing by his goodness to my request.

If Willi[am]s deys I'll writ[e] again so[o]ne. Sor[r]y I sho[ul]d have bine for him if he had not crulley t[o]uched me most fallcely⁵⁵¹ in the most tender part. God forgive him as I freely doe.

Frank Burten and his fine boys⁵⁵² is gone for England. They are to be with[in] ten mill[e]s of you. I am my dear sisters every affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I have stra[i]ned my wrist and cannot writ[e] with out p[a]ine.

NLI, MS 41,578/11

166. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 OCTOBER 1738

Dear sister,

Leat⁵⁵³ last night I had the inclosed from sister Jones just as I was going in to bed and tho[ugh] it is what was expected, I did not sleep half an houre. Worthless as he⁵⁵⁴ was, I know how he was, and he has lost me meny a nights sle[e]p, I freely forgive him and hopes God has bine marrcyfull to him, for he has bine in all this illness and some time before, the most pennetant⁵⁵⁵ cr[e]ature I ever h[e]ard of. Hap[p]y, hap[p]y for

⁵⁴² Conyngham Hall, Slane, Co. Meath: see letter no. 21, note 228.

⁵⁴³ For Williams' Conyngham's will see NLI, MS 41,569/5 (Smythe of Barbavilla papers).

⁵⁴⁴ *Lege* sole.

⁵⁴⁵ *Lege* debts.

⁵⁴⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁴⁷ *Lege* wrong.

⁵⁴⁸ There was constant tension between Mary Jones and Katherine Conolly concerning Katherine's apparent favouritism towards other members of the extended family and her perceived neglect of Mary Jones's family.

⁵⁴⁹ *Lege* whom.

⁵⁵⁰ *Lege* by.

⁵⁵¹ *Lege* falsly.

⁵⁵² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his sons Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁵³ *Lege* late.

⁵⁵⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) who had just died.

⁵⁵⁵ *Lege* penitent.

him he had that most exxlant⁵⁵⁶ womon⁵⁵⁷ with him. They did not send to me soe I know nothing but what you see. If I know any more before I seall this you shall.

Only the sarvant that came from Slean to Dollonstown and soe hear told my sarvants that wan Bron⁵⁵⁸ that has had a morgige⁵⁵⁹ on Slean and that 700 po[u]nd as he says is still dew to him – came, sessend⁵⁶⁰ the couch⁵⁶¹ and horses and every thing. That she⁵⁶² sent for him and beg[g]ed to let her have the couch and a payer⁵⁶³ of horsis to drag her to Dublin, which he refused, and she drop[p]ed in a second. They say he⁵⁶⁴ has taken great care of all his deets⁵⁶⁵ soe I hope you will get your one [paid] at last. My heart is very full. I can say noe more but am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

167. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 NOVEMBER 1738

I had my dear sist[er]s of the 24[th] last night. As I gave you an account of poor Willies⁵⁶⁶ death and sent you my sister Jones letter, I had nothing new to tr[o]uble you with senas. I wrot[e] to my ness Conyngham twist senas his death to invite her to my house and to bid her draw opo[n] me for any sume she wanted as fare⁵⁶⁷ as 2 or 300 pound till her one⁵⁶⁸ rents or mon[e]y come in. I have not h[e]ard from Slean senas nor co[ul]d I well expect it. He was burryed a Monday, kept a great while – from Wedensday, 3 in the morning – by sending for my sister Persons couch⁵⁶⁹ and some others. I beli[e]ve they made a great funaral but I know nothing of it. What I hear before I seall this you shall know.

I am sure you will like the littell Burtons⁵⁷⁰ for they ear fine childrin, God make them good. The youngest is a charming child.

Last night I had a submissife⁵⁷¹ letter from H[enry] C[onyngham] telling me I had fo[un]d out his wack⁵⁷² side, for I wrot[e] to him [that] pride and jellesey made up meny of his quallitys, which he freely ones.⁵⁷³

⁵⁵⁶ *Lege* excellent.

⁵⁵⁷ His wife Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁵⁵⁸ Unidentified.

⁵⁵⁹ *Lege* mortgage.

⁵⁶⁰ *Lege* seized.

⁵⁶¹ *Lege* coach.

⁵⁶² Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁵⁶³ *Lege* pair.

⁵⁶⁴ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵⁶⁵ *Lege* debts.

⁵⁶⁶ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵⁶⁷ *Lege* far.

⁵⁶⁸ *Lege* own.

⁵⁶⁹ *Lege* coach.

⁵⁷⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁷¹ *Lege* submissive.

⁵⁷² *Lege* weak.

⁵⁷³ *Lege* owns.

Mr Conolly⁵⁷⁴ is safe landed which gives me joy for we have had e[i]ther storms, r[a]ine, or great fogs which is bad we[a]ther [when] at sea. He will stay hear till about January and glad he is to be hear, for no wan loves Ierland better then he dose. But his excess of good nature makes him complay⁵⁷⁵ to these frequent gants⁵⁷⁶ to England. He still says its over but he cannot resist, what between reall love and being constantly tossed makes him complay tho[ugh] against his inclanation. His littell boy⁵⁷⁷ is spr[igh]tly but doth not get flesh, nothing soe fine a child as my littell Willey.⁵⁷⁸

Just now had a letter from sister Jones. She says her son⁵⁷⁹ is not yet come home and she knows nothing of Slean. Nather doe I more then what I sent you. When I doe, you shall. I wonder I doe not hear by this from ness Conyngham or by her derrections.

I had a letter from Beamore – my sister has got a little of the gout again. It's a bad time of year and indeed she was very well as I have seen her for some years.

There is wan great piess of sarvis I most desire you to doe for me, its to send me when you can make wan, a trash bag,⁵⁸⁰ for the last you sent me is quit[e] wore out. This is to let you see I am still a worker. When I am obliged to wear spectells⁵⁸¹ I shall turn ideler, but I thank God I want non[e] yet.

I beli[e]ve about a fortnight hence you will get the things I sent over by Lady Ann Conolly.⁵⁸² The half piss of cloth I beli[e]ve will be too course⁵⁸³ for you, for it did not answer soe well as I thought it wo[ul]d, tho[ugh] its good of its sort. I shall tr[o]uble you noe more but to assure my dear sister I love her and am sencerly yours,
Ka: Conolly

[PS] No[vem]b[e]r 2[n]d. Miss Burtons⁵⁸⁴ duty attends you. She is a good girill.

NLI, MS 41,578/11

168. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 11 NOVEMBER 1738

I had my dear sisters of the 2[n]d last packets, I wro[e] to you the 2[n]d which I hope you have got before this. I know nothing new from Slean senas I had a letter from Mrs Conyngham⁵⁸⁵ in answer to 2 of mine, in both [of] which I invited her to my house and to let her have what mon[e]y she wanted. She thanks me for both but

⁵⁷⁴ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵⁷⁵ *Lege* comply.

⁵⁷⁶ *Lege* jaunts.

⁵⁷⁷ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁵⁷⁸ Referring to William (1734–7) the deceased child of William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵⁷⁹ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁵⁸⁰ Probably a bag to hold sewing scraps.

⁵⁸¹ *Lege* spectacles.

⁵⁸² Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵⁸³ *Recte* coarse.

⁵⁸⁴ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵⁸⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767), widow of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

says she has mon[e]y to defrey the expence of her house keeping. I expected her in town last night, had her room re[a]dy, [but] she did not come and I am told just now she has taken a lodging near this, which I admire. She did not let me know. I have done what I thought was right as I hope I allways will to her and every body elas.

I have inclosed you a bill for thurty po[u]nds on Mr Nisbet, dew to you by me for [the] forst of this month. I really forgot it when I wrot[e] last to you or you sho[ul]d have had it a wick sonner. I hope Col[one]l Conyngham will give you no tr[o]uble as to your mon[e]y. I had a letter by yesterdays packet which I send you for I know nothing of the matter, soe you may burn it if you pl[e]as[e]. The last jacket had not soe much vennells⁵⁸⁶ as it used to have, but was very good jacket.

Sister Jones is not come to town. I h[e]ard from her this day her son⁵⁸⁷ has bine very ill by [a] cold he got coming in the night from Slean. I have no more to say but I think the 2 littell Burtons very fine childrin.⁵⁸⁸ God bless them and make them good. Indeed my girill⁵⁸⁹ is very good. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] Writing this post to Mr Nisbet I have mention[e]d my draft on him for you.

NLI, MS 41,578/11

169. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 NOVEMBER 1738

I wrot[e] to my dear sister the 12[th] but has not h[e]a[r]d from you sence, and I have now soe littell to say that its hardly worth your reeding, only to tell you we ear all well, as is poor ness Conyngham. She is very une[a]sey at her brother's⁵⁹⁰ not comeing over or writing to her, for to sarve him she has involved her self in a vast deall of tr[o]ubles. I wish he may be as sencable of it as he ought, for sho[ul]d she have more tr[o]uble or sorry with any of the famally it wo[ul]d give me great tr[o]uble (but I have my fears).

Sister Jones is in town and well. I have not h[e]ard wan word of the 2 littell Burtons⁵⁹¹ senas the[y] went to scoull.⁵⁹² They ear fine children, God make them good. I h[e]ard from Mr Burton⁵⁹³ from Bath, I expect him so[o]ne over.

In my last I sent you a thurty po[u]nd bill which I hope is come safe to your hands. Till I hear from you I shall say no more but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

⁵⁸⁶ *Lege* vanilla.

⁵⁸⁷ Roger Jones (d. 1747), who had attended the funeral of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁵⁸⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁸⁹ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵⁹⁰ Her brother-in-law Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) who inherited the Conyngham estates on the death of his older brother Williams (1698–1738).

⁵⁹¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁹² *Lege* school.

⁵⁹³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

170. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 13 DECEMBER 1738

I had by 6 and 7 packets that came in yesterday, and this day 2 letters from my dear sister. The forst was of the 15[th] November and sho[ul]d have come in with the packets of the 18[th], your last was the 22[nd] November. I had not bine soe long of writing but now for 13 days past have expected packets every day and yesterday came in six, and wan this morning. As to both I must give a short answer.

As to Harys⁵⁹⁴ letter to you, [it] was just the same he wrot[e] to me as I told you in my last, and you and I agree in the same opponnon. I hear he thr[e]atens his good sister⁵⁹⁵ much which gives her great tr[o]uble, and I doe not wonder at it she haveing involved her self in endless tr[o]ubles to sarve him and doe justis to her husband's memery. I have wrot[e] larg[e]ly and smartly on the sub[j]ict to him but I have had no answer by the 7 packets. But as 100 leys⁵⁹⁶ has bine wrot[e] to him, when he comes over and knows the truth, I hope he will have another way of thinking.

I am glad to hear such a good account of the littell Burtons,⁵⁹⁷ I pray God bless them and make them good men. I h[e]ard this day from Frank,⁵⁹⁸ he is still at Bath and will continue there a fortnight longer.

As to your last, you give yourself too much tr[o]uble about that foollish man that wrot[e] to me.⁵⁹⁹ My jackalet is good and I care not how⁶⁰⁰ makes it and as Mr Smith⁶⁰¹ is soe kind to bespake it, let him bespake it to him he pl[e]ases.

My poor ness Conyngham dined with me last Sunday. She comes every Sunday hear to prayers and I keptt her till evening. I have told her that if her brother⁶⁰² sho[ul]d give her tr[o]uble or une[a]seyness she may dopen⁶⁰³ I shall doe her all the sarvis in my power, tho[ugh] her husband did me and my dear husband⁶⁰⁴ much wrang. I will stick by her to the utmost of my power as I think all her husband's fri[e]nds ought to love and respect her for much she has suffered by comeing into the ffamally.

I will so[o]ne send a bill for the jacklet but if you can want it till affter the forst of Febr[uar]y I wo[ul]d send it and your one⁶⁰⁵ mon[e]y together. Let me know this the

⁵⁹⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁹⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767), widow of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738). Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) succeeded his brother Williams in the family estates. On 17 December 1739 Henry obtained leave from the House of Commons to waive privilege 'in a suit commenced, or to be commenced, by Mrs Constance Conyngham, for any jointure or thirds by her claimed, or to be claimed, out of any part of the estate of Williams Conyngham, Esq., her husband, deceased.': *HIP*, iii, 483.

⁵⁹⁶ *Lege* lies.

⁵⁹⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁹⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁹⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81): see letter no. 168.

⁶⁰⁰ *Recte* who.

⁶⁰¹ Possibly Thomas Smith, Lisgoole, Fermanagh: see letter no. 90, note 375.

⁶⁰² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81)

⁶⁰³ *Lege* depend.

⁶⁰⁴ William Conolly (1662–29).

⁶⁰⁵ *Lege* own.

very forst post. All your fri[e]nds well. I in heast can say noe more but I am my dear
sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/11

SECTION 4

1739-1743

LETTERS 171–240

The letters in this section cover the period 1739–43 and are concerned with the continuation of the legal dispute between Jane Bonnell and Henry Conyngham and with Katherine's attempts to alleviate Jane's concerns, both personal and financial. They highlight Katherine's building works at Castletown and her attempts to relieve her tenants' distress during the severe winters of 1739–41.

171. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 15 JANUARY 1738[/39]

At my coming to town a Friday I had 2 letters from my dear sister of the 28[th] December and the 4[th] inst. As to the forst it require[e]s littell answer, but I am gri[e]ved that [the] disorder in your heed continues. I was in hopes the perpetuall blister wo[ul]d have [cured] you for I know nothing better, but it most have time for its sloe.

I had a letter from H[enry] C[onyngham]. He says he will not act by the advise of his fri[e]nds but disput[e] his brother's will, but I hope he will think better of it, for the whole dose not amo[u]nt to 5000 po[u]nd of which wan thous[a]nd is for his brothers 2 baster[d]s. Good womon, she¹ has taken them from the slut of a mother,² has clothed them – for they wear quit[e] nicked³ – has put them out to an old decayed gentellwomman to Lady Doyel,⁴ l[e]arn[t] to reed and say their prayers, which tho[ugh] wan of them is ten or aleven year old they knew nothing of. Poor ness C[onyngham]⁵ was hear just now, [she] has a bad cough [and] is not well. I made your compl[im]ants to her.

Yours of the 4th gives a bad account of yourself. The same night we had [a]great wind rise and much lightning but no thunder. We have still most sad stormey we[a]ther. Frank Burton⁶ is at Chester, I wish he wear come over.

I have this day sent you a piss of cloth for shifts – 20 yards – I saw it misured.⁷ It's a good deal thinner or I am cheated, for it cost 9 shillin[gs] a yard more, and I think when washed you will like it, for I never buy thick cloth. It goes by cousen Jam[e]s

¹ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767), widow of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

² Unidentified.

³ *Lege* naked.

⁴ Unidentified.

⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁷ *Lege* measured.

Nisbet,⁸ Albert's⁹ eldest brother, its derected to Mr Hores. I hope that he goes off as so[o]ne as any good ship sealls.

About a fortnight hence I will send you a bill for your mon[e]y and my jacklet. I am hurried [to] buy wed[d]ing close for Miss Curry.¹⁰ She is to be married to Capt[ain] Mun Leslie.¹¹ There is no objecti[o]n, but he has not a fortune equell to hers nor to the way she has all ways lived in, but I wrot[e] to her [that] she was the best judg[e] as to that.

Robin Leslie¹² has got a son¹³ at last. They say great joy for it. I have told you all my news and can add no more but, I am my dear sist[e]rs ever affectionate K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/12

172. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 19 JANUARY 1738/39

Last Tu[e]sday by packet I had my dear sisters of the 9[th]. I wrot[e] to you about a wick agoe and has littell to say now then to as[s]ure you that I thank God that you can ley on your left side with out being effected by it. I hope so[o]ne to hear you recover stren[g]th, but [with] such uncartan we[a]ther it cannot be expected. We have had 3 or 4 very ple[a]sent days – warm we[a]ther, too much soe for the time of year – but now its clo[u]dy and lo[o]kes like r[a]ine.

I saw ness C[onyngham] senas I wrot[e] last. She lo[o]kes very thin and has a bad cough. I cannot tell you any thing more of what the col[one]l¹⁴ will doe with his good sister,¹⁵ I hope the best. I gave my sister Jones your letter. She says she will so[o]ne answer it tho[ugh] cousen Nisbet¹⁶ and Clemons¹⁷ is not yet gone off. I have sent the cloth I wrot[e] to you I had and if you have no accasion¹⁸ for it you may sell it to some of your n[e]ighboors that I am sure wo[ul]d be glad of it.

I admire how that letter of mine came unfranked. It most be some neglect in Col[one]l Cornwallis¹⁹ sarvant, for he wrot[e] that there had bine some neglect in wan of his sarv[an]ts for which he was very angrey, and says it shall never be soe again. If that did [happen] I know nothing of it.

⁸ James Nesbitt, Tubberdaly, Co. Donegal: see letter no. 113.

⁹ Albert Nesbitt, son of Marjorie (*née* Knox) and James Nesbitt of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

¹⁰ Martha Corry (1704/5–c. 1764), daughter of Col John Corry (1667–1726) and Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh, married her second cousin, Capt. Edmund Leslie in 1739. He later assumed the surname Corry.

¹¹ Capt. Edmund Leslie (d. 1764), son of Rev. Henry Leslie (1651–1733) and Margaret Leslie (*née* Beaghan).

¹² Robert Leslie (d. 1743), son of Rev. Charles Leslie (1650–1722) and Jane Leslie (*née* Griffith). He married Frances Rogerson in 1730.

¹³ Charles Powell Leslie (d. 1800) son of Robert Leslie (d. 1743) and Frances Leslie (*née* Rogerson).

¹⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁵ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

¹⁶ Unidentified member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

¹⁷ Unidentified member of the Clements family.

¹⁸ *Lege* occasion.

¹⁹ Either Maj. Gen. Hon. Stephen Cornwallis (1703–43) or Lt Gen. Hon. Edward Cornwallis (1713–76): see letter no. 121, note 99.

My eyes is better but I still have a cough. Adew.²⁰ If I hear any thing of Frank B[urton]²¹ I will tell you, for I am told the youth is in²² the sea. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] [torn edge] Mr Burton just [damaged] staying 12 days at Chester.

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173. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 FEBRUARY 1738/[39]

I had my dear sisters of the 29[th] Jen[ua]ry that came in 2 days a goe with 3 packets. I was longing to hear from you and was resolved to have wrot[e] to you as about this time if I had not got yours, for I did not writ[e] to you senas the forst inst when I sent you a bill for fifty g[u]ineys which I hope is come safe to you before this.

As to the paragraff²³ in yours, I am in an ameass²⁴ how or opon what gro[u]nds such a divillish millisous leys²⁵ co[ul]d be reased,²⁶ for I am sure as I can be of any thing in this world that there is not the least truth nor fo[u]ndation for the story. It was never h[e]ard nor thought of in this side [of] the watter till meny letters came from London all full of it – and all bad storys ga[i]nes more credit then good wans. And as to his²⁷ gru[d]ging any wan his meat at his table, [it] is a most redicuals²⁸ story for he is never better pl[e]ased then when he has company. And as to that other dam[n]ed story about his ladys womon, [that] is as falces²⁹ as hell for I doe in my consiances³⁰ beli[e]ve that never any man that ever had a wife is more just³¹ to her bed then [he] is, for that is a viss³² he condemns in all mar[r]yed men as much as any bishop in the Kingdoom doth. And I beli[e]ve no man ever loved a wife³³ more sencerly then he doth, and nothing she doth or says but what is aggreaball to him only that he cannot get her to lo[o]ke a littell affter her famally affears, and her great love for England, and a pivishness in her temper. But he is very e[a]sey in it and offten says to me she is young and in a littell time you will see how she will allter. But a more good natured or honnester man never lived, soe pray on all

²⁰ *Lege* adieu.

²¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87), who was travelling to school in England and visited his aunt Jane Bonnell.

²² *Recte* on.

²³ *Lege* paragraph.

²⁴ *Lege* amazement.

²⁵ *Lege* malicious lies.

²⁶ *Lege* raised.

²⁷ William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁸ *Lege* ridiculous.

²⁹ *Lege* false.

³⁰ *Lege* conscience.

³¹ *Lege* faithful.

³² *Lege* vice.

³³ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

accasions whear you hear this vill³⁴ story talked, as[s]ure every wan how falces³⁵ it [is]. All the while he was in Ierland I saw most of the letters [that] pas[s]ed between them, for when he wo[ul]d be at Layslip he wo[ul]d send me her letters and l[e]ave his letters [to her] open for me if I had any thing to writ[e] or put a letter in his, and more kind, good sort of letters co[ul]d not pass between any copell. I have sayd too much of on this subiect but it vexed me to see p[e]opell soe ill natured and wicked.

I have not h[e]ard from H[enry] C[onyngnam] above a month, nor Nat[haniel] Clemons³⁶ nor any wan I can hear off. I have not se[e]n ness C[onyngnam] senas Sunday. She lo[o]kes better then she did. Couson Curry's daughter³⁷ is married and I hope will be very hap[p]y. Mr Burton gives you his sarvis and his daughter³⁸ her duty. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

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174. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 FEBRUARY 1738[/39]

I had my dear sisters of the 12[th] by 3 packets that came in 2 days a goe. I am sor[r]y you doe not begine to gather stren[g]th tho[ugh] the we[a]ther is as uncertain hear as with you. Yet the sun is now very warm and of a great h[e]ight. We have had 3 days and nights quit[e] fear³⁹ so I hope it will continue, for the farmars compla[i]ns most sadly.

I will make your complim[en]ts to Capt[ain] Leslie and lady⁴⁰ as you desire. Robin Hamilton⁴¹ is as well as can be expected, they kept him 22 days in bed. He has bine up these 2 or 3 days. Poor woman – his mother was the most to be pityed of any cr[e]ature – but now her mind is at eass⁴² for he had no sort of faveur.⁴³

Jeny Samson⁴⁴ was yesterday brought to bed of a son. Ralph⁴⁵ was better but is some what worse again, I beli[e]ve changing his bed has returned his cold. Cousen Samsons⁴⁶ daughter Molly⁴⁷ is to be married nixt week to Jamy Echlin. He is a great ma[t]ch for her haveing made a larg[e] fortune[e] when he was in the Indess,⁴⁸

³⁴ *Lege* vile.

³⁵ *Lege* false.

³⁶ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77), son of Robert Clements (1664–1772) and Elizabeth Clements (*née* Sandford), acted as executor of Henry's brother's estate.

³⁷ Martha Corry (1704/5–c. 1764): see letter no. 171, note 10.

³⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and Alice Burton (1728–45).

³⁹ *Lege* fair.

⁴⁰ Edmund (d. 1764) and Martha Leslie (*née* Corry) (1704/5–c. 1764): see letter no. 171, notes 10 and 11.

⁴¹ Unidentified, but may refer to an unlisted son of Archdeacon William H. Hamilton (1664–1729) and his wife Catherine (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756).

⁴² *Lege* ease.

⁴³ *Lege* fever.

⁴⁴ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85).

⁴⁵ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

⁴⁶ Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764) married Michael Sampson (b. *post* 1680) of Dublin c. 1706.

⁴⁷ Mary Anne Sampson (*post* 1717–*post* 1769) married as her first husband James Echlin (d. *post* 1759) of Ardquin, Co. Down, in 1739.

⁴⁸ *Lege* Indies.

has neer a thousand a year, but her [?] and good qualittys desarves him or any wan I know. Sister Jones is well. She will writ[e] so[o]ne to you. I am my dear sisters ever affac[tionate], Ka: Conolly

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175. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 MARCH 1738[/39]

I had my dear sisters of the 26[th] of Febr[ua]y. I am glad you wear able to goe to church and if [the] warm we[a]ther wo[ul]d come in I am sure you wo[ul]d gether stren[g]th, which God send you.

I most say there never was a more millisous ley⁴⁹ ever invent[e]d then that about Mr C[onolly] and lady⁵⁰ for I doe in my consunas⁵¹ beli[e]ve no co[u]pell loves better. I doe think she has offten an unhappy way of sp[e]aking heast[i]ly with out thinking, but when that is ov[e]r she is most heart[i]lly sor[r]y and in the mean⁵² has [a] good nature. But she has a piveish⁵³ way some times, but I doe think there lives not a womon of more modesty. Indeed she is fond of devartions,⁵⁴ but that is allways the feat⁵⁵ of young womon kept in a nursery and never let goe abrood to see anything till they ear marryed. Then they think they can not get enough of devartions and this was her case as she has offten told me.

I am glad you got the bill and sent the poor boy[s]⁵⁶ there mon[e]y, for scoull boys have meny wants. There father⁵⁷ went hom[e] last wick. I came hear last Satterday with my cousen Samsons daughter⁵⁸ that is marryed to my cous[i]n James and all the folks that was by when they wear marryed. We wear 3 couches⁵⁹ and 3 cheirs,⁶⁰ about 20 of us. We got back a Satterday. The bride was frighten[e]d at being in Dublin at that time and he as much as she.

I have not h[e]ard from H[enry] C[onyngnam] senas I wrot[e] to you nor indeed [from] no body that I know. Let me him take his [own] way, I will. Adew,⁶¹ I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

[PS] Sister Jones was not well when I left Dublin.

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⁴⁹ *Lege* malicious lie.

⁵⁰ William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁵¹ *Lege* conscience.

⁵² *Lege* main.

⁵³ *Lege* peevish.

⁵⁴ *Lege* divertions.

⁵⁵ *Lege* fate.

⁵⁶ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96) who were at school in England.

⁵⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁸ Mary Anne Echlin (*née* Sampson) (*post* 1717–*ante* 1769) and James Echlin (d. *post* 1759): see letter no. 174, note 47.

⁵⁹ *Lege* coaches.

⁶⁰ *Lege* chairs.

⁶¹ *Lege* adieu.

176. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 MARCH 1738[/39]

I had my dear sisters of the 13[th] by the packets that came in yesterday for I had not h[e]ard from you for some time longer than I used to doe. I wrot[e] to you about the 6th.

Robin Hamilton⁶² brock⁶³ his arm just above the elbow, only r[e]aching over the back of a chear⁶⁴ to sna[t]ch some co[u]nters from his brother⁶⁵ he sayd he won at cards. His brother sayd he wo[ul]d not pay, all in jest. His mother⁶⁶ [was] standing just by him or she says all the world wo[ul]d not make her beli[e]ve [he] got soe. Just the forst day of tearm, some breefs⁶⁷ and fees came to him which he sent back, a great loss to them. He is now abrood⁶⁸ again.

Poor Molly Echlin⁶⁹ got cold in standing 3 hours allmost naked⁷⁰ the day before she was marryed traying⁷¹ on her close. Strug[g]led tow much with it [and] went to the co[u]ntery with me. We thought it wo[ul]d have turned out an ague by her haveing hot and cold fits but senas we came to town the docters says it [is] a very bad, tedouss faver.⁷² It's a most sad afear, he⁷³ never l[e]aves the room and she in great consarn that his confin[e]ment will doe him hort.⁷⁴

Jeny Samson recovered, Ralph⁷⁵ better. She has [had] 12 or 13 childrin – they dey generley 2 at a time when 7 or 8 year[s] old – 2 daughters, the eldest and youngest [and] 3 sons [still] alive.

The account you give of the we[a]ther [is] just the same [as] we have. I never knew such cold we[a]ther as we have had for a wick. Great snow, the forst we have had this winter, then frost. Great heal⁷⁶ yesterday, much r[a]ine, this day clire⁷⁷ sunshine but very cold.

I am glad you like the cloth. I thought it good of the priss.⁷⁸

Poor nices Conyngham [is] not well. She has got the scurvey soe much in her face she cannot stur out poor womon. I pity her can not get a pen[n]y of her one.⁷⁹ Indeed I sopley⁸⁰ her with what she wants. I have senas she came to town let her

⁶² Unidentified: see letter no. 174.

⁶³ *Lege* broke.

⁶⁴ *Lege* chair.

⁶⁵ Unidentified: see letter no. 174.

⁶⁶ Unidentified: see letter no. 174.

⁶⁷ *Lege* briefs.

⁶⁸ *Lege* abroad.

⁶⁹ Mary Anne Echlin (*née* Sampson) (*post* 1717–*ante* 1769): see letter no. 174, note 47.

⁷⁰ *Lege* naked.

⁷¹ *Lege* trying.

⁷² *Lege* tedious fever.

⁷³ James Echlin (d. *post* 1759) of Ardquin, Co. Down.

⁷⁴ *Lege* hurt.

⁷⁵ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85) and her husband, Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

⁷⁶ *Lege* hail.

⁷⁷ *Lege* clear.

⁷⁸ *Lege* price.

⁷⁹ *Lege* own.

⁸⁰ *Lege* supply.

[have] a 100 po[u]nd and yesterday she wrot[e] for [£]30. I sent her back her noot and bid her make it fifty. She wo[ul]d not, but while I have it she shall not want. Its hard, cru[el]ly hard, she sho[ul]d be always [so] ill used.

I have not h[e]ard of any body that hears from H[enry] C[onyng]ham. I had a letter from him the 1st of this March, he desir[e]s me to give his sarvis to his fri[e]nds if I know he has any hear. I wrot[e] him back word [that] if he had not fri[e]nds hear and every[where] eless⁸¹ it was his fa[ul]t and not his fri[e]nds. I understand he thinks every wan hear is more in his sisters⁸² int[e]rest then his, for some time a goe he wrot[e] soe to Nat Clemons.⁸³

I think I have made this a long letter soe shall say no more. Sister Jones is very well. I am full of p[a]ines with this very sharp we[a]ther, but in all conditions I am still my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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177. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 APRIL [1739]

I had my dear sisters of the 2[n]d instant last night and as I have not wrot[e] to you for ten days I wo[ul]d not omit this post to let you know we ear all well.

I saw ness Conyngham a Sunday. She is better but has a sad scurvy in her face. I fear it's a bad wan. I had a letter from H[enry] C[onyng]ham last night, a very sivell wan. Nothing but peaa⁸⁴ is his desire. He writ[e]s the same to Mr Clemons,⁸⁵ which is very diff[e]rent from his way of writing. He has cartanly stop[p]ed her⁸⁶ jo[i]nter every wher[e], but he writ[e]s [that] he will be so[o]ne over and then I hope he will [be] of a better mind.

Our we[a]ther [is] just as you mention yours [was] these 3 days. It is warm again with some showers but the 4 forst days of this wicke I never saw such heill⁸⁷ and wind.

I hope your apprehensions of your cough is now over, I shall be glad to hear it is. Poor Mrs Echlin⁸⁸ is still ill, has hardly bine out of bed ne[a]r this month but is bet[t]er. Her faver over but [she is] mighty wack.⁸⁹ Sister Jones is well but has got an ugelly sore leg which tr[o]ubles her much but I hope it will [amount] to no great matter.

I have no news. I hope its [only] to as[s]ure my dear sister, I am with the greatest love, your affactionate sister, Ka: Conolly

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⁸¹ *Lege* else.

⁸² Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁸³ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77): see letter no. 173, note 36.

⁸⁴ *Lege* peace.

⁸⁵ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77).

⁸⁶ His sister-in-law Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁸⁷ *Lege* hail.

⁸⁸ Mary Anne Echlin (*née* Sampson) (*post* 1717–*ante* 1769): see letters nos 175 and 176.

⁸⁹ *Lege* weak.

178. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD,
ESSEX, 16 MAY 1739

I had my dear sisters of the 26[th] of Aprill about a wick agoe. I wrot[e] to you of the 2[n]d of May and sent you a bill of thurty pound dew to you but has not h[e]ard senas from you. I hope it went safe and that you have got the mon[e]y, for I am sure you most want it.

Your we[a]ther is cartanly worse then ours tho[ugh] I never knew soe much r[a]ine in my life. But we have not had such thunder as you mention, but much wet and wind.

I hope your clarat holds, [damaged] pray doe not be too saveing for you will have another cargoe, for⁹⁰ Raph Samson and I sends you soon a hogsheed⁹¹ by some ship to London. Soe if you doe not every day take 2 or 3 glassis our present to you is ill bestowed on you.

As to sister Jones leg, she says its now prity well. I have not that I know the recat of the hors[e] hair plaster⁹² or I wo[ul]d send it you, but when I goe to Casteltown I'll look for it. I stay hear to see for 3 or 4 days with out r[a]ine and to [offer] compation⁹³ to poor afflicated Lady Santery.⁹⁴ The lord⁹⁵ the most pennetant soull I ever h[e]ard off. If the King shows marcy I doe beli[ev]e he will be a patron⁹⁶ to all the young idell men of the age. He is trully sencable of his ill misspent life.

Mrs Echlin⁹⁷ is recovered and goes so[o]ne into the countery. All fri[e]nds well hear. Say in your nixt when you h[e]ard from the littell Burtons, there father⁹⁸ [is] in the co[u]ntery. Niess Conyngham prity well. H[enry] C[onyngham] not yet come over. I long to hear your cold is better. I am my dear sisters most affectionate, K: C:

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179. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 JULY 1739

I had my dear sisters of the 25[th], you det⁹⁹ it by mistake but the London mark is the 19[th]. I doe not wonder if you mistake when you had such a letter to copy. Sure

⁹⁰ *Recte* from.

⁹¹ The hogshead of wine contained 63 gallons.

⁹² This may refer to a medicinal receipt or more probably the formula for common wall plaster containing horsehair.

⁹³ *Lege* compassion.

⁹⁴ Bridget Barry (*née* Domvile), only daughter of Sir Thomas Domvile (1650–c. 1721), married in 1702 Henry Barry (b. 1680–1733/35), 3rd Lord Barry of Santry.

⁹⁵ Henry Barry (1710–50), 4th Lord Barry of Santry, was the son of Henry Barry, 3rd Lord Barry of Santry and Bridget (*née* Domvile). On 9 August 1738 he stabbed Laughlin Murphy, a footman. He was found guilty of this murder and sentenced to death on 27 April 1739. He was attainted, with his titles and estates forfeit for the remainder of his life. On 17 June 1740 he obtained a pardon of the sentence of death and his estates were later returned to him: David Ryan, *Blasphemers and blackguards: the Irish Hellfire Clubs* (Dublin, 2012).

⁹⁶ *Lege* pattern, an example.

⁹⁷ Mary Anne Echlin (*née* Sampson) (*post* 1717–*ante* 1769): see letter no. 176.

⁹⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁹⁹ *Lege* date.

if ever any bodys heed¹⁰⁰ was turned his¹⁰¹ is. Much such letters I have had from him often. My heart bleeds for the poor good womon.¹⁰² I remember wanst to hear he gave her fifty po[u]nd but I allsoe h[e]ard he stop[p]ed it out [of] the int[e]rest dew to her son¹⁰³ out of my dear Mr Conollys¹⁰⁴ legesey [that] he left the boy. Wither this is soe or not I am not sure but I h[e]ard it and am apt to beli[e]ve it. I am sure he is angry with me for sup[p]leying her with triffling sumes [of money] to keep her from starveing, which he has wanst or twist twited¹⁰⁵ me up with. But he had my answer as to that – that all her husbands fri[e]nds was not barbarous to her. I inclose you a letter I had from her last night, I wishe she co[ul]d form any skeem¹⁰⁶ to make her e[a]sey.

I am sorry you stil[l] compl[a]ine, I long to hear you say you wear better. Cousin Leslie Hamilton¹⁰⁷ goes so[o]ne to London. He says he'll see you if he can. He is in very good bissnes and much esteemed. Sister Jones is still at her sons.¹⁰⁸ She says in a wick or ten days she will come hear again. I have got sore eyes. I wrot[e] to you the 17[th] from Dublin but inclosed it to a stranger. Yours most affactionatly, K: C:

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180. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 8 AUGUST 1739

I had my dear sisters of the 27[th] July, 2 packets a goe and rejoys to hear you say you ear better. I hope you will not quit the assis milk¹⁰⁹ senas it aggress [with] you, for that expence and your coolls¹¹⁰ I have drawan a bill on Nisbet for your 30 po[u]nd now dew, and five po[u]nd ten out of which you most send the 2 littell Burtons¹¹¹ ten shillin[g]s between them. The other five po[u]nds will I hope help to defray the assis milk and buy you a chadaron of coolls.¹¹² I am glad the wine is come safe and that its liked. I hope you will not be too spearing¹¹³ of it on yourself for 2 or 4 glassis a day will nather doe you nor me hurt, for that is my stint at dinner. At night I never teast¹¹⁴ wine but a glass or 2 of punch which agrees better with me than any wine at night.

¹⁰⁰ *Lege* head.

¹⁰¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁰² Henry's sister-in-law Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

¹⁰³ William (Billy) Conyngham (1721–37).

¹⁰⁴ William Conolly (1662–1729).

¹⁰⁵ Old English, meaning to reproach or upbraid.

¹⁰⁶ *Lege* scheme.

¹⁰⁷ Leslie Hamilton (b. 1712), son of Rev. William H. Hamilton (1664–1729), archdeacon of Armagh 1700, and his wife Catherine (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756).

¹⁰⁸ Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Richard (1662–1729) and Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

¹⁰⁹ See letter no. 78, note 168.

¹¹⁰ *Lege* coals.

¹¹¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

¹¹² *Lege* cauldron of coals.

¹¹³ *Lege* sparing.

¹¹⁴ *Lege* taste.

Last Thursday I and my compeny dined at Dollanstown¹¹⁵ and was very well intertaned.¹¹⁶ I have promised this twelve months to goe there. Mr Burton¹¹⁷ is going hom[e] in 2 or 3 days. We expect Lady Ann C[onolly]¹¹⁸ the latter end of this wick or so[o]ne in the nixt. She will find her sone¹¹⁹ well recov[e]red which gives me joy.

I shall say no more; Mr Burton weats¹²⁰ for this. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/12

181. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 SEPTEMBER 1739

Last night I had my dear sisters of the 14[th] by 2 packets that is just come in. I had a letter before from you which I desired sister Jones to answer. My legs is better, the inflame[m]ation allmost gone. As to the swelling at nights, I have had that above 20 yearrs and I make small account of it, the soreness in the flesh and skin is better. It was like a scald as you describe[d] yours. I am in the hands of the best surge[o]n in Ierland but I might as well not [be] for he orders but the st[r]aps¹²¹ at night and hot brandy and dray¹²² flanins and rowllers¹²³ all day. I am tyred with this cookery. Pray be not une[a]sey for I am better.

I shall goe to Dublin in ten days or a fortnight for the winter. When I goe there I shall send you linnin for 2 payer of sheets. As to the Ierish cambric,¹²⁴ they say they make a great deal, I have seen but littell [of it]. I bought 2 pissis not ch[e]ap. The cours¹²⁵ piss I made combing cloths¹²⁶ for my self and Miss Burton.¹²⁷ It made just 4, 2 a piss. The fine, as they called it, I got out for hancrchifs¹²⁸ for my self and all the fri[e]nds that was hear. It was 3 shillin[g]s a yard, very deer. I am promised a finner¹²⁹ piss but as yet it most keep deer till they have a better found and come more in to the way of it. I have 2 or 3 cambrick aprons but I think my fine linnin aprons soe much better that I doe not put on wan in a month but allways linnin wans. But I will send you wan of them and new cambrick for wan.

¹¹⁵ Dolanstown, Co. Meath, the Jones residence.

¹¹⁶ *Lege* entertained.

¹¹⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹¹⁸ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

¹¹⁹ *Lege* son. Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

¹²⁰ *Lege* waits.

¹²¹ *Lege* straps, which were used to control an inflammation in the leg.

¹²² *Lege* dry.

¹²³ *Lege* rollers.

¹²⁴ *Lege* Irish cambric, which was a fine, white, plain-weave, linen cloth.

¹²⁵ *Lege* coarse.

¹²⁶ This reference is unclear; it may refer to a type of shawl that women put around them when combing their hair to protect their clothes.

¹²⁷ Alice Burton (1728–45).

¹²⁸ *Lege* handkerchiefs.

¹²⁹ *Lege* finer.

As to H[enry] C[onyngham], he sp[e]akes very re[a]sonably but no messige that I hear off has yet pas[e]d between them¹³⁰ which doth not look well. I long to hear some good account of littell Willy Burton.¹³¹ I think I have meade this a long letter soe I most bid my dear sister a dew,¹³² with sarvices from sister Jones, your neic[e], her father,¹³³ and 20 more thats hear. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/12

182. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 SEPTEMBER 1739

I had my dear sisters last packet. I am glad the 2 boys¹³⁴ is with you. God send poor Willey to get stren[g]th and a littell flesh to cover his poor bones. I am sure no care will be wanting for him. I think [them] very fine boys, God make them good men.

I can now tell my dear sister I have left off the st[r]aps,¹³⁵ only hot brandy, flanins and roullers¹³⁶ is continued, but I'm very e[a]sey, no inflammation, nor much swellings. I shall goe to Dublin nixt wick. The day I wrot[e] to you last neics Conyngham and the col[one]l¹³⁷ met hear. He salluted her, but he sent her word he had severell things to take ill of her but [that] he wo[ul]d set that aside, and l[e]ave all in disput[e] between them and Mr Onslow¹³⁸ the Sp[e]aker or any of her fri[e]nds she wo[ul]d name. She wo[ul]d not come in to that. Then he proposed to l[e]ave all to 2 la[w]yers and they both to name 2 honnest men as umpers,¹³⁹ for he wo[ul]d be sor[r]y to goe to law with his brother's wodow.¹⁴⁰ All this I thought re[a]sonable but she did not and I have h[e]ard nothing senas or he wo[ul]d pay her 400 [pounds] a year [and] pay it quarterly. This she wo[ul]d not come in to. But then she was to discharge that villion¹⁴¹ Gabl Jonston¹⁴² which all the world knows ruined Willi[am]s C[onyngham]. This she wo[ul]d not come in to tho[ugh] every wan says he has put her on[to] meny bad things.

H[enry] C[onyngham] sayd some thing that you sho[ul]d be wrot[e] to doe. I desired that Frank Burton¹⁴³ wo[ul]d writ[e] it to you but I know not if he has for he

¹³⁰ Referring to the dispute between Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and his sister-in-law Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) following the death of Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹³¹ William Burton (1733–96).

¹³² *Lege adieu*.

¹³³ Alice Burton (1728–45) and her father Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹³⁴ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

¹³⁵ *Lege* straps: see letter no. 181, note 121.

¹³⁶ *Lege* flannels and rollers.

¹³⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹³⁸ Thomas Onslow, 2nd Baron Onslow (1679–1740), brother-in-law to Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

¹³⁹ *Lege* umpires.

¹⁴⁰ *Lege* widow.

¹⁴¹ *Lege* villain.

¹⁴² Unidentified, but probably a lawyer acting on behalf of Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) in her dispute with Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81). Williams Conyngham (1698–1738), left 'my good friend' Gab. Johnston £300 in his will: NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,569/5.

¹⁴³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

has bine in Dublin ever senas. Its about your mon[e]y being the forst morgige.¹⁴⁴

Miss Burton¹⁴⁵ gives you her duty and to my knowledge she never had a letter from any of her brothers.¹⁴⁶ Sister Jones and all fri[e]nds is well, her son and daughter¹⁴⁷ was hear yesterday; she is with child, her youngest¹⁴⁸ will be 5 year old before this is born. I have made this a long letter soe adew.¹⁴⁹ I am my dear sisters every affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] See your neices¹⁵⁰ letter, doth not she writ[e] well.

NLI, MS 41,578/12

183. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 19 OCTOBER 1739

I have 2 letters from my dear sister senas I wrot[e] to you, wan the day I left Casteltown which was last Monday, the other of the 5[th] inst. I thank you for your consarn for my legs. I think they ear much better and I thank God I can goe with out any help except Miss Burtons¹⁵¹ that will not venter¹⁵² me alone, tho[ugh] now I have got a pear of shows¹⁵³ that fits me, I can goe prity well.

I rejoyes at the good account you give of poor dear Willy Burton.¹⁵⁴ He is a very fine boy and I am glad you think him soe. His father¹⁵⁵ was much rejoyced to hear your last account. He has bine these 2 days taken up in doing a fri[e]ndly part¹⁵⁶ between his brother and sister Conyngham,¹⁵⁷ and as I saw the propossall H[enry] C[onyngham] has made her [an offer] of [£]600 a year payd quarterly or as she pl[e]ases if she will j[o]yne him in the exe[cut]ership¹⁵⁸ and discharge 2 or 3 of the greatest raskells she has about her who will never let her be in paces¹⁵⁹ with him. Fur then a scane¹⁶⁰ of there villeney will appear, for some of them was the runnen¹⁶¹ of Willi[am]s C[onyngham] as every body hear saw and knew. When I know more

¹⁴⁴ *Lege* mortgage, that Jane Bonnell held on the Conyngham's Donegal estate.

¹⁴⁵ Alice Burton (1728–45).

¹⁴⁶ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁴⁷ Roger (d. 1747) and Elenor Jones.

¹⁴⁸ Richard Jones (1735–90), son of Elenor and Roger Jones (d. 1747).

¹⁴⁹ *Lege adieu*.

¹⁵⁰ Alice Burton (1728–45).

¹⁵¹ Alice Burton (1728–45).

¹⁵² *Lege* venture.

¹⁵³ *Recte* pair, *lege* shoes.

¹⁵⁴ William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁵⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁵⁶ Following the death of his father Williams (1698–1738), Frank Burton (1696–1744) accepted the guardianship of Williams' son, William (Billy) Conolly Conyngham (1734–37).

¹⁵⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

¹⁵⁸ Constance was the sole executor of her husband's estate.

¹⁵⁹ *Lege* peace.

¹⁶⁰ *Lege* scheme.

¹⁶¹ *Lege* ruin.

you shall, but she is made beli[e]ve by these rog[u]es that all these affears of H[enry C[onyngham] is only a pa[r]t off, tho[ugh] they ear under his hand. He sent Nat[anial] Clemons¹⁶² to her the other day that she sho[ul]d have from wan to 400 g[ui]neys, for he was sure she most want mon[e]y. She sayd she wo[ul]d take non[e] from him but if Mr Clemons wo[ul]d lend her fifty on her noot¹⁶³ she wo[ul]d borrow it from him, which he did, and told her she might have taken a much larger sume for he knew who to be payed. And as I understand it, thus it stands.

I have got the cambrick for your aprons but has not yet bought your sheets, being in a perpetuall crowd and hurry senas I cam[e] to town affter 4 months being in the co[u]ntery. I have made this a longer letter then I intended soe can add noe more but my love and his sisters to Willey,¹⁶⁴ with her duty to you. I am most affectionately my dear sisters, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/12

184. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 OCTOBER 1739

I had my dear sisters of the 11th by the packet that came last Friday. I am glad poor Willey is soe well recovered. I pray God continiue it and make him a good man. Mr Burton¹⁶⁵ is most thankfull to you for your car[e] and goodness to him. I long to hear how you ear affter your fright and cold you must have got by the drunken couch¹⁶⁶ man.

I have packed up and I beli[e]ve [it] is sent by a ship goeing to London with linnin cloth what I send you, its deredcted to you at Mr Hores. [There are] 2 payer of sheets, 15 yards of wan sort and 16 of another elle¹⁶⁷ brood.¹⁶⁸ There was no more but 15 yards that I think by much the best tho[ugh] much ch[e]aper than the other. Sister Jones and I have bespoke another piss if we can get it. I sent a remnent of fine linnin I had by me to make you 2 or 3 piller¹⁶⁹ cases and 5 yards of our best Ierish¹⁷⁰ cambrick for 2 aprins.¹⁷¹ Its very de[a]r but every manifactory most have a begin[n]ing, e[i]ther ways the Du[t]ch over w[h]ell[m] us.

As to Hary C[onyngham] and his sister,¹⁷² I can not see its like to be ended for she sent me her proposells which I fear he will not come in to. If I have time I will inclose them to you. He is willing to give her [£]600 a year if she will e[i]ther give

¹⁶² Nathaniel Clements (1705–77): see letter no. 173, note 36.

¹⁶³ *Lege* note.

¹⁶⁴ Alice Burton (1728–45) and William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁶⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁶⁶ *Lege* coach.

¹⁶⁷ An ell is a unit of measurement, approximating the length of a man's arm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger or about 18 inches. Linen was sold by the English ell which was usually 45 inches (1.143 m) or a yard and a quarter.

¹⁶⁸ *Lege* broad.

¹⁶⁹ *Lege* pillow.

¹⁷⁰ *Lege* Irish.

¹⁷¹ *Lege* aprons.

¹⁷² Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

up the exe[cu]tership or joyn him with her and dismiss some great villions¹⁷³ she has about her that often gives her bad adviss.

I am I thank God prity well and I think [I] can use my feet as well as I have done for some years, for by the great swelling I have bine sub[j]ict to my ankells was very wack. All fri[e]nds is well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/12

185. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 13 DECEMBER 1739

I had not bine soe long of writing to my dear sister but I have had a dissiness¹⁷⁴ and disorder in my heed. By tacking¹⁷⁵ a puck¹⁷⁶ and some other medi[ca]tions [it] is prity well over and now my eyes is sore; its all accasioned by cold.

Mr Burton¹⁷⁷ is gone home but says he will be so[o]ne back. Its gives me great plesure to hear poor Willy¹⁷⁸ is soe well. I sopose you have got Frank¹⁷⁹ with you by this time. Tell them I love them both very well beca[u]se I hear they ear very good.

My jackalet is neerer out then I thought it wo[ul]d be soe I hope you have given derections about it.

I doe not find that H[enry] C[onyngnam] and his sister¹⁸⁰ is yet lick¹⁸¹ to conclude there unhap[p]y diff[e]rances. Nather will yealld¹⁸² and if both doe not, it will never be ended. I think they ear both in the wrang.¹⁸³ Mr Burton¹⁸⁴ is still in hopes to end it when he comes back.

I am glad you have got the bill and sor[r]y you have h[e]ard nothing of the linnin and cambrick. I have sent to the gentellman that sent it to inqu[i]re about it and you shall know what he says. All fri[e]nds is well. I am with great affection my dear sisters most sencerly, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/12

186. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 DECEMBER 1739

Dear sister,

I had yours of the 14[th] last night and am much tr[o]ubled that you have any return of that sad mallancoolly disorder in your heed again and shall be impatiant to hear how you ear, which I beg I may.

¹⁷³ *Lege* villains.

¹⁷⁴ *Lege* dizziness.

¹⁷⁵ *Lege* taking.

¹⁷⁶ *Lege* puke, vomit.

¹⁷⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁷⁸ William Burton (1733–96) who was staying with Jane Bonnell.

¹⁷⁹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87).

¹⁸⁰ Constance Conyngnam (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767)

¹⁸¹ *Lege* likely.

¹⁸² *Lege* yield.

¹⁸³ *Lege* wrong.

¹⁸⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

To morrow I goe to Castelltown till about the 10th of Jen[ua]ry. Mr Burton¹⁸⁵ went about ten or 12 days agoe to Boncreggy. He will be back about New Years Day, at which time I am told the duck and duches[s]¹⁸⁶ intends me a visit, but of this I have no great cartanty.

H[enry] C[onyng]ham is gone to Sleane for the forst time. His sister¹⁸⁷ did intend to petition the House of Commons for him to wa[i]ve his privelidge¹⁸⁸ but he prevented it by wa[i]veing his privelidge the day before. This doth not lock¹⁸⁹ like an aggrament¹⁹⁰ which I am gri[e]ved at.

I send you the names of the marcts¹⁹¹ that your linnin and cambrick put up [and] derected for you to be left at Mr Hores in there packs of linnin sent from this last Oct[o]b[er] or No[vem]b[er]. Soe if you have not yet got your things you may send to some fri[e]nd in London to inquire about it.

All fri[e]nds well. I wish I may hear a good account of you for I shall be une[a]sey till I doe. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I h[e]ard soe much cowcow nots¹⁹² was taken in the rich Spanish ships I was in hopes they wo[ul]d be ch[e]ap by this time. I am in no want yet of jacklet but hopes in February or March to have some from you. Sister Jones bids me tell you, you shall so[o]ne hear from her.

NLI, MS 41,578/12

187. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 15 JANUARY 1739[/40]

I wrot[e] to my dear sister about ten days agoe from Castelltown and senas that I had a letter from you. I am sor[r]y to find the disorder in your heed continuiues. I hope in God your nixt will say better. I sent you not long agoe the names of the men whear your linnin was sent to and in your last, which was the answer of that letter, you did not mention your haveing rece[i]ved it.

Mr Burton¹⁹³ is come, I showed him yours and told him it was very ill done to let the poor boy¹⁹⁴ want nessecerys. He says he has wrot[e] 3 times to his mother¹⁹⁵ about it.

¹⁸⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

¹⁸⁶ *Lege* duke and duchess; she is referring to the serving lord lieutenant William Cavendish (1698–1755), 3rd duke of Devonshire and his wife Catherine (d. 1777): see Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 15 Dec. 1739 (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

¹⁸⁷ Constance Conyng]ham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

¹⁸⁸ Parliamentary privilege: see letter no. 141, note 338.

¹⁸⁹ *Lege* look.

¹⁹⁰ *Lege* agreement.

¹⁹¹ *Lege* merchants.

¹⁹² *Lege* coconuts.

¹⁹³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁹⁴ William Burton (1733–96), who was recovering from an illness at his aunt's, Jane Bonnell.

¹⁹⁵ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

As to bathing your feet every night in hot watter, [it] is wan of the best things in the world for all disorders in the heed. I have knowen meny, meny, got good by it, but it sho[ul]d be a great deall warmer [water] then what you mention. And keep the tea kettell on to put in more warm [water], and [do] this for at least an hour every night and [continue] this for a fortnight. Then [for] a wick [do it] every secoond night [and] soe [on] wanst or twist a wick as it aggrees with you. This was wan of Dr Borhave¹⁹⁶ chi[e]fe derections for every dissorder in the heed.

We have and still has the greatest frost and snow with the very sharpest winds has bine every knowen hear now neer a month. I went to the co[u]ntery the 12[th], went to church a Sunday, got such a cold that I never went to the door till last Satterday I came hear.¹⁹⁷ It affected me in all shap[e]s; forst a cough, then I lost my voyes,¹⁹⁸ then a sore thro[a]t, now its in my heed, eyes and jaws, but I am better this day.

The poor hear is in a miserable condition as they ear every whear. I have made this a longer lether¹⁹⁹ then I intended, soe for cold can say no more then that I am most affectionatly my dear sisters, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I had the gover[n]m[en]t²⁰⁰ and a 100 more with the holly days²⁰¹ with me, and my co[l]d soe bad I was quit[e] out of spirits.

NLI, MS 41,578/13

188. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 29 JANUARY 1739[/40]

I have not h[e]ard from my dear sister for 3 wicks past and as you then compla[i]ned still of your heed [it] makes me very une[a]sey. I wrot[e] to you the 15[th] and wan before that from Castelltown, and in wan of those letters I told you that Mr Burton²⁰² had given repeated derection to his mother²⁰³ about poor Wille,²⁰⁴ his shoes and close. Pray writ[e] or order some body to do it, for both sister Jones and I ear une[a]sey about you.

Such seवार we[a]ther was never knowen nor soe meny poor miserable objicts. The great charitys collected for them and much poor men in the co[u]ntery. The mills cannot grind corn for those that has it. I send 4 score lo[a]ves of breed²⁰⁵ every wick to Castelltown for my poor labo[u]rers and the other poor, and not less then a 100 feed hear every day. Soe if this we[a]ther continius long I beli[e]ve we [will] be all

¹⁹⁶ Dr Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738) was a Dutch physician of European fame.

¹⁹⁷ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) notes in her correspondence that Katherine had gone to the country to see Lady Rosse, whose uncle General Pearce had died, and as a result had got a cold: Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 16 Jan. [1740] (NLI, MS 41,577/1–5).

¹⁹⁸ *Lege* voice.

¹⁹⁹ *Lege* letter.

²⁰⁰ See Mary Jones to Jane Bonnell, 15 Dec. 1739 (NLI, MS 41,577/1).

²⁰¹ *Lege* holidays.

²⁰² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744): see letter no. 187.

²⁰³ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

²⁰⁴ William Burton (1733–96).

²⁰⁵ *Lege* bread.

poor, for no charity can hold out. There is not less then 2 or 3000 po[u]nd reased in the city layd out for cools and meall for the poor trad[e]smen, for not wan trade can work. I am close by the fire yet a fressing.²⁰⁶

Have you h[e]ard nothing yet of your linnin. I sent you the names of the marcts²⁰⁷ of whom you wear to inquire before C[h]ristmass but you did not mention your getting it. All fri[e]nds well. I can say no more but longs to hear from you, and am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] No sort of ac[c]om[m]ondation like to be [reached] between H[enry] C[onyngham] and his sister.²⁰⁸ I'll send you a bill for your mon[e]y as so[o]ne as I hear from you. This minnet a packet come in but no letters from you which gri[e]ves me.

NLI, MS 41,578/13

189. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 7 FEBRUARY 1739[/40]

Yesterday I had my dear sisters of the 29[th] which gave me great joy for I was very une[a]sey about you, but Mr Burtons²⁰⁹ letter made me a littell e[a]sey, which came 3 days before yours. I am sor[r]y you compla[i]n soe much of your br[e]athing and heed.²¹⁰ I wish you wo[ul]d trey a littell flower of the sulfer and hon[e]y.²¹¹ A teaspo[o]nfull of sulfer to 2 or 3 tea spo[o]nfulls of hon[e]y well mixed, or if hon[e]y disagrees with you, a dram of sulfer and a dram of rubberb poudre.²¹² This you ear to take about 2 scrupells²¹³ at nigh[t]. As to the hon[e]y and sullfer, about the bigness of a small noct²¹⁴ 2 or 3 times a day. This I have knowen doe much good. Have you used the hot watter at nights? It is much practised hear with great success.²¹⁵

Our we[a]ther still continiues frosty. We had the latter end of last wick some thing like a thaw but it went off, but the we[a]ther is these 2 or 3 days much milder, nather r[a]ine or hard frost. I am glad you like the linnin for your she[e]ts. I cannot say I liked it much but I co[ul]d not then get any I licked better, for I bought it in a hurry. As to the cambric, I know it washes well as I remember. I gave [£]3–18–0 for the finest [of] the piss [of] 8 yards, for the other [£]3–10–0, this I think was the priss.²¹⁶

²⁰⁶ *Lege* freezing.

²⁰⁷ *Lege* merchants.

²⁰⁸ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁰⁹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²¹⁰ *Lege* head.

²¹¹ Flower of Sulphur is also known as yellow sulphur powder. A natural mineral that has been used as a remedy for centuries, it is a bright yellow powder obtained from naturally occurring volcanic brimstone deposits.

²¹² *Lege* rhubarb powder. Rhubarb was used primarily for digestive complaints including constipation, diarrhoea, heartburn, stomach pain.

²¹³ A specific medicinal measurement according to the apothecaries' system of weights.

²¹⁴ *Lege* nut.

²¹⁵ See letter no. 187.

²¹⁶ *Lege* price.

Sister Jones holds out the best of any body, this day she compla[i]nes of a p[a]ine in her eare and gaws²¹⁷ on the other side.

You will have a bill for fifty 6 po[u]nds to be dissposed of as under writ[t]en. I am tyerd soe can say no more only I see no lickly hood of any aggre[e]m[en]t between H[enry] C[onyngnam] and his sister.²¹⁸ Mr Burton's²¹⁹ best wishes attends you and my girills duty and love to her brother.²²⁰ She has got a cold and sore thro[a]t, [she] is better to day I thank God, [it] is the forst cold she has had all this bad cold we[a]ther.

I am with great truth my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS	for yourself	[£]30–00–0
	for cools ²²¹ to you	[£]04–00–0
	for the jacklet	[£]21–10–0
	to the 2 dear Burtons between them	[£]00–10–0

Our niece Jones²²² has got a young daughter. My girill²²³ is hear to be god mother.

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190. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 MARCH 1739/[40]

I had 2 letters from my dear sister together of the 13[th] and 15[th]. I am glad the bill came safe to you for the ballances in your hands. As to the 20 shillin[g]s overpayd in the jacklet, give at E[a]ster a crown a piss to the 2 dear boys Frank and Willy Burton.²²⁴ The other ten shillin[g]s with any thing over in the foremore accounts lay out for jacklet or tea for yourself as you like best.

I wo[ul]d have wrot[e] to you when sister Jones did but I was very ill then with a most sevear cold, a much worse wan then I had in all the frost. It came with the thaw. Such a cough and whissing²²⁵ I co[ul]d not sleep. Was forst to get up at 4 and 5 in the morning and sit in my chear.²²⁶ I thank God I am now a great deall better, ley last night on my right side without whissing and my cough very e[a]sey to what it was, and as the we[a]ther is now come in mild and but littell r[a]ine, I hope it will doe all the invileeds²²⁷ sarvis, for never in the memery of man soe fine a thaw. Had the thaw bine attended w[i]th great r[a]ine, the co[u]ntery had bine ru[i]nned.

²¹⁷ *Lege* jaws.

²¹⁸ Constance Conyngnam (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²¹⁹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²²⁰ Alice Burton (1728–45) and William Burton (1733–96).

²²¹ *Lege* coals.

²²² Elenor Jones, wife of Roger Jones (d. 1747). Katherine may be referring to the birth of Isabella Jones (d. 1816), she married John Tew (d. 1782).

²²³ Alice Burton (1728–45).

²²⁴ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

²²⁵ *Lege* wheezing.

²²⁶ *Lege* chair.

²²⁷ *Lege* invalids.

Mr Burton²²⁸ had a letter from you last packets giving him a good account of his sons. Roger Jones's da[u]ghter²²⁹ was to be c[h]rist[e]ned yesterday, Miss Burton²³⁰ a god mother. I wo[ul]d not let her goe but she sent the needfull.²³¹ Her going wo[ul]d have put them to expenc[e]s, for she most have my couch²³² and six [horses], her made²³³ and her footman, and most have stayed 3 nights.

I think H[enry] C[onyngham] in a bad steat of health. He lo[o]kes very peall,²³⁴ has an ougly²³⁵ cough and frequently a p[a]line in his heed. I see no step takeing for an aggre[e]ment between him and his sister²³⁶ which I gri[e]ve for.

All fri[e]nds well. I have made this a much longer letter then I intended soe a dew.²³⁷ God send you health and beli[e]ve me with true love and affection, yours,
Ka: Conolly

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191. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 APRIL 1740

I had my dear sisters of the 22[nd] of March 2 packets a goe and am glad you think your bre[a]thing better. I wish you co[ul]d say soe of your heed and cough. We have now the finest fear²³⁸ we[a]ther [that] ever was knowen this time of year. The great compla[i]nts is want of r[a]ine and sharp winds, nothing like spring in the co[un]tery.

I went a Tuesday to Layslip to see Lady Ann²³⁹ who is in a bad way and has bine ill senas Monday morning, in great danger of misscar[r]ying now in the 7th month. She went home about a wick before, for indeed she routed²⁴⁰ about sow²⁴¹ much when hear, but young p[e]opell is not to be advised, espechely those that loves devertons.

I have sent you by a gentellman that goes to London nixt wick as much frip[p]ery Iersih stof²⁴² as will make you a nightgown. It is very thin. I have wan of the same on now. Mine is for a months m[o]urning for cousen Hamilton of Caledon, Archdack [sic] Will Hamiltons widow.²⁴³ Cousen Curry,²⁴⁴ sister Jones and 4 or 5 fri[e]nds has

²²⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²²⁹ Roger Jones (d. 1747) and his daughter Isabella Jones (d. 1816): see letter no. 190, note 222.

²³⁰ Alice Burton (1728–45).

²³¹ As godmother or 'gossip', Alice was expected to give a christening present to the nurse and the child.

²³² *Lege* coach.

²³³ *Recte* maid.

²³⁴ *Lege* pale.

²³⁵ *Lege* ugly.

²³⁶ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²³⁷ *Lege* adieu.

²³⁸ *Lege* fair.

²³⁹ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97), who was residing at Leixlip Castle and was expecting a child: see letter no. 195.

²⁴⁰ *Lege* played.

²⁴¹ *Lege* so.

²⁴² *Lege* Irish stuff, meaning linen.

²⁴³ The context of this account is unclear as Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (b. 1682), widow of Archdeacon William Hamilton (1664–1729), did not die until 1756. Katherine may be referring to another branch of the inter-related Hamilton families.

²⁴⁴ Probably Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

bought the same. For as I am still, and ever will be in m[o]urning, all the distinction I can make is a pla[i]n grey beca[u]ss[e] my gowns is e[i]ther flower[e]d or stript²⁴⁵ black and white. If you think it tow²⁴⁶ thin for your wear sell it, for its very ch[e]ap. I gave but 2 shillin[g]s a yard for its no great purchase, for 20 p[e]opell likeing it made me send it [to] you.

Nixt wick all our great folks l[e]aves us. A scour²⁴⁷ of them sup[p]ed with me last night. I doe not hear a word how affears is like to goe between H[enry] C[onyng]ham and his sister.²⁴⁸ I never aske e[i]ther of them for they [and] I thinks very dif[fe]rant ways.

My sister Jones is very well. Raph Samson²⁴⁹ burryed a son yesterday to the gre[a]t joy of all that ever h[e]ard of the miserable condition he was in. A pallapass²⁵⁰ or hard lump in his thro[a]t co[ul]d not be cot²⁵¹ out nor noe help given him; co[ul]d swallow nothing but liquids this way for above 2 years. She big with child again.²⁵² Mr Burton, my girill²⁵³ and all fri[e]nds well. I have made this a longer letter then I intended but I most tell you I am sor[r]y I mentioned the jacklet to you senas it tr[o]ubles you. I believe it will mend, its well tested soe the diffrans²⁵⁴ between a littell more is of no consequence. So I shall conclude with as[s]uring my dear sister I am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I sent nurse Ward²⁵⁵ some more mon[e]y the other day.

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192. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 MAY 1740

I had [my] dear sisters yesterday of the 29[th] of Aprill and tho[ugh] I wrot[e] to you abo[u]t a wick a goe I chouse to writ[e] now beca[u]se I think [I will] the [*sic*] goe to Beamore the begin[n]ing of nixt wick.

You give a mallanolly account of the we[a]ther and scarcesity of every thing. We ear not much better, but roots and greens is now grown ch[e]aper and in more plenty then they wear a month a goe. As much spinige²⁵⁶ as wo[ul]d ley in a pleat²⁵⁷

²⁴⁵ *Lege* stripped.

²⁴⁶ *Lege* too.

²⁴⁷ *Lege* score, twenty.

²⁴⁸ Constance Conyng]ham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁴⁹ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

²⁵⁰ *Lege* polyps. A throat polyp is an abnormal growth of tissue that grows in the throat. Medical conditions that may lead to throat polyps include allergic reactions in the larynx or gastroesophageal reflux or hypothyroidism.

²⁵¹ *Lege* cut.

²⁵² Unidentified daughter of Ralph Simpson (1693–1763) and Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (*c.* 1717–85).

²⁵³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his daughter Alice Burton (1728–45).

²⁵⁴ *Lege* difference.

²⁵⁵ Unidentified former family retainer; see also letter no. 128.

²⁵⁶ *Lege* spinach.

²⁵⁷ *Lege* plate.

used to cost a shillin[g] or 18 penas,²⁵⁸ and every thing of the kind in proportion. Our we[a]ther is much the same as what you mention but no r[a]ine, which is to be fear[e]d will runin²⁵⁹ the farmers in meny parts. They have plowd²⁶⁰ up there wheat and is sowing a summer barley. If the tennents be in such a way, the land lords must be the suff[er]ers allsoe.

Lady Ann Conolly²⁶¹ goes on very well and I am sure will goe out her time. She doth not stur out which is the best thing she can doe, [which] is to keep quiet.

As every thing is scarce and dear I have sent you your bill for May quarter [allowance] and tho[ugh] things is deer, I beg you doe not starve yourself, which I beli[e]ve you ear apt to doe. I am sor[r]y to hear Master Burton²⁶² has not bine well. Pray what was or is the matter with him?

I see no licklyhood of H[enry] C[onyngnam] and his sister²⁶³ comeing to a settlement. I think them both in the wrang. All fri[e]nds well. Mr Burton²⁶⁴ goes with me to Beamore wher I shall stay a wick. Soe doe not expect to hear from me for some time, if I doe not. I cannot tell what I shall doe with this great bottell. Its much too big to tr[o]uble any body with that has a clogbage²⁶⁵ and to send it by long sea I fear it may be lost, or by the Chester car[r]yers, but I will doe the best I can with it.

I sopose by this time you have got your stoff. I have bine so hurried by p[e]opell senas I began this that I know not what I writ[e], but I know that I am with great truth, my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/13

193. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, [DAMAGED] MAY 1740

I had my dear [damaged] Beamore it was a great [damaged] you had soe much [damaged] compla[i]nt [damaged] senas and no thing from you [damaged] me good news from you for I am une[a]sey to [damaged] I hear from you.

The col[one]l and his sister Conyngnam²⁶⁶ has I think at last settled. He gives her [£]600 a year and 500 po[u]nd in mon[e]y and pays her the ar[r]e[a]rs. I saw her yesterday. I think now that matters ear made soe well, she now talkes of her reputition²⁶⁷ and pin miny²⁶⁸ dew her. She was to give up all papers which I find she has not done. He has singed²⁶⁹ all papers and securetys²⁷⁰ to her, but I find poor womon she is still in wrang hands. But I hope she will think better of it.

²⁵⁸ *Lege* pennies.

²⁵⁹ *Lege* ruin.

²⁶⁰ *Lege* ploughed.

²⁶¹ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) who was expecting a child: see letter no. 191.

²⁶² Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) or William Burton (1733–96).

²⁶³ Constance Conyngnam (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁶⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁶⁵ *Lege* clothbag.

²⁶⁶ Constance Conyngnam (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁶⁷ *Lege* reputation.

²⁶⁸ *Lege* money.

²⁶⁹ *Lege* signed.

²⁷⁰ *Lege* securities.

I long to hear you have got the bill I sent you the 10[th] of May, the day before I went to Beamore. Yesterday morning Lady Ann Conolly was saff[e]ly delivered of a daughter, a lusty child as she ever had.²⁷¹ She and it both well. Sister Persons as well as I have seen her. She bids me as[s]ure you no body wishes you better. Sister Jones went yesterday to Dollonstown. She has promised when I am settled at Casteltown she will come there. I long to hear from you soe will say noe more till I hear from you, but to as[s]ure you I am most sencerly yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Mr Burton and Miss²⁷² gives you [their] duty and sarvices.

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194. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 23 JUNE 1740

I have not wrot[e] to my dear sister senas the 7[th] of this month and wo[ul]d have wrot[e] senas I cam[e] hear but Mr Burton²⁷³ did, and I am qui[e]t ase²⁷⁴ senas this hot we[a]ther came in, for we have by much warmer we[a]ther for 8 days past then I remember for some years past. I hope it aggrees with you but it over comes me, espeshely in the night. Tho[ugh] I liy[e] thire²⁷⁵ I sweat in the nights which is very une[a]sey to me.

I expect sister Jones to morrow from her sons,²⁷⁶ but not to stay beca[us]e I goe to Dublin for 2 or 3 days the latter end of the wick. She has had a mallancolly time of it for ten days past. Mr Tew,²⁷⁷ that to[o]ke Radinstown²⁷⁸ from me, deyed, and she²⁷⁹ was constantly there and saw him dey, and [also] in the room a distracted widow and ten children, non[e] any way provided for. He had run in my de[b]t 500 and fifty po[u]nds about 2 months a goe. I forgave him a 100 and fifty po[u]nds to get good security for 400 which I hope will be safe, and senas he dyed I for gave the wodow²⁸⁰ 20 g[u]ineys he owed as fines on renewalls for a leass[e] which he was to have payd in May.

You never sayd how you liked the littell fripery Ierish cut I sent you or if you had got it. This is we[a]ther for it. Your news the 5[th] of this month as to H[enry] C[onyngham] and his sister,²⁸¹ I hope all disput[e]s is as good as ended. The [£]100 a year pin mon[e]y was I beli[e]ve given her senas her comeing over. He is in the

²⁷¹ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) and her daughter Lucy (b. 1740), who died young.

²⁷² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his daughter Alice (1728–45).

²⁷³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁷⁴ *Lege* easy.

²⁷⁵ *Lege* there.

²⁷⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

²⁷⁷ Unidentified, one of Katherine Conolly's tenants. Mary Jones's granddaughter Isabella Sampson (d. 1816) married John Tew (d. 1782).

²⁷⁸ Rodenstown [Kilcock] Co. Meath, the first residential property and estate purchased by William Conolly (1662–1729) in the east of the country. In 1694 he settled these lands on Katherine Conyngham in exchange for her marriage portion of £2,300: Walsh, *Making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy*, p. 66.

²⁷⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

²⁸⁰ *Lege* widow.

²⁸¹ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

north this month, what he is dowing I know not. I h[e]ard wanst from him senas he left town.

Mr Burton²⁸² had a letter from his mother²⁸³ that the boys wear at scoull and well. All fri[e]nds well. Miss Burtons²⁸⁴ duty attends you. Do you hear any thing of a[n] unfortunate[e] relation of ours that left Dublin about a month ago, a son²⁸⁵ of Archd[e]acon Will Hamilton, a man in great bissness and a sober man? He has ru[i]ned a 100 p[eo]pell. I am consarned for the widow Peggy Hamilton²⁸⁶ who had speared²⁸⁷ it of[f] her back and belly to scrap[e] up e[i]ther 2 or 300 po[u]nd for her eldest daughter,²⁸⁸ put it in to his hands as the most secure thing she co[ul]d doe with it. He gave her a bond as from a gentellman of fortune, she thought it very safe. Senas he went off the gentellman has made an affadavit he never gave such a bond nor had d[e]alling[s] with Mr Hamilton. He has [taken] from every wan he knew vast sumes, they say to the sume of 7 or 8000 [pounds] and has ru[i]nned meny famallys, and a lease which his mother left with him to r[ai]se portions for his sister and brothers is allsoe sold. It has t[o]ubled me much. No man had soe good a carricter nor in more business. I have made this a long letter opon mallancolly sub[j]jects (his name is Leslie Hamilton). The town says I lent 500 po[u]nd but as I never had such a sume to lend together, I am safe. Yours most sincerely, Ka: Conolly

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195. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 JULY 1740

I had my dear sisters of the 1st of July. I wrot[e] to you the 8th and as yours was ten days a comeing and I have bine lese²⁸⁹ and a good deall of compeny and very busy making fring[e] for a bed. The bed and fring[e] is all of whit[e] knot[t]ing, sowed on in a long pattron²⁹⁰ opon whit[e] linning. It lo[o]kes very prity²⁹¹ and all most finished, for some thing I must doe.

I cannot tell you how the affears is between H[enry] C[onyng]ham and his sister,²⁹² for he has not been in Dublin senas the middell of May. He was not at Mo[u]ntCharles²⁹³ but at Newtown²⁹⁴ and Slean. I beli[e]ve by this he may be in Dublin, but I only h[e]ard he was expect[e]d.

²⁸² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁸³ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

²⁸⁴ Alice Burton (1728–45).

²⁸⁵ Leslie Hamilton (b. 1712), son of Archdeacon William Hamilton (1664–1729): see letter no. 179, note 107, and letter no. 195.

²⁸⁶ Referring to Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756), widow of Archdeacon William Hamilton (1664–1729).

²⁸⁷ *Lege* spared.

²⁸⁸ Either Ann, Margaret, or Catherine Hamilton, daughters of Archdeacon William (1664–1729) and Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756).

²⁸⁹ *Lege* lazy.

²⁹⁰ *Lege* pattern.

²⁹¹ *Lege* pretty.

²⁹² Constance Conyng]ham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

²⁹³ The Conyng]ham estate at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal.

²⁹⁴ Newtown Limavady, Co. Londonderry.

As to Leslie Hamilton,²⁹⁵ no body hear knows any thing of him. He wrot[e] to the widow Hamilton²⁹⁶ he wo[ul]d pay her her int[er]est in August, or at Michellmass pay her off this. She nor no body beli[ev]es nor knows whear he is. I hear that H[enry] C[onyngham] goes for England in August, but he never told me soe.

Have you tryed the bl[ea]ch[ed] sheat yourself? I left a great piss in Dublin to be sent you, wither gone or not I have not h[ea]rd. Mr Henry has marryed another [of his] daughter[s], both to churchmen (not clargy men).²⁹⁷ Mention the 2 boys²⁹⁸ when you writ[e]. There father [is] in the co[u]ntery. I can say noe more but to as[s]ure my dear sister I am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] Sister Jones hear and well.

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196. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 AUGUST 1740

I had my dear sisters of the 10[th] of last month and delayed answering it till I co[ul]d send you a bill for your quarters allowances from me which I inclose to you. 30 po[un]d is what is your dew but I have made it five pound more for you to buy coolls²⁹⁹ and tea. Only you ear to send the 2 Burtons³⁰⁰ crowns a peiss³⁰¹ from me. Tho[ugh] all things is deer, I beg you to allow yourself some warm flesh meat every day and except you promiss me that, I'll never send you any more.

I hope things of all kinds of provisions is growing ch[e]aper, both for your sack³⁰² and the poor. I am sure the poor hear is very miserable; they have cheated me soe offten that I grow very uncharitable. Col[one]l Conyngham came hear last Friday before 9 a clock. I got him brackfast. He wo[ul]d not stay for my brackfast which is allways at ten. He sayd he was to goe off at 2 which I sopose he did not having h[ea]rd anything of him senas. I asked him if he and his sister³⁰³ had ended all there affears. He sayd he thought soe but they had not singed,³⁰⁴ but the artickles³⁰⁵ wear re[a]dy as they wear last May. But she sayed she wo[ul]d not sing³⁰⁶ till she had consulted her fri[e]nds in England which I am sure she might have dune senas May. But she has bad advisers. He says the aggre[em]ent is thus, 600 [pounds] a year English mon[e]y payd quarterly and if the will be proved good, 500 po[un]d for her legesy. She has all the papers in her hands of

²⁹⁵ Leslie Hamilton (b. 1712): see letter no. 179, note 107.

²⁹⁶ Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756): see letter no. 194, note 286.

²⁹⁷ Hugh Henry (d. 1743), a banker and member of the Presbyterian gentry: see letter no. 146, note 377. Katherine is inferring that they married Presbyterians rather than Church of Ireland members.

²⁹⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

²⁹⁹ *Lege* coals.

³⁰⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

³⁰¹ *Lege* apiece.

³⁰² *Lege* sake.

³⁰³ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

³⁰⁴ *Lege* signed.

³⁰⁵ *Lege* articles, legal documents.

³⁰⁶ *Lege* sign.

every kind and thus it stands. I think her in the wrang not to take what will make her e[a]sey. I am sure I wo[ul]d doe it but every wan has there one³⁰⁷ way of thinking. I have not seen her senas I left Dublin.

I wrot[e] to you of the 29[th] which I sopose you have got before this. Just now I h[e]ard that Mr Burton³⁰⁸ is very ill in the co[u]ntery. He has sent an expresse to Dublin for a docter and surgine³⁰⁹ that I hope has set out this morning. I beli[e]ve it is the girills³¹⁰ – no womon in strong labour is in greater extramety then he is. I am in great tr[o]uble for him. I have not told his daughter³¹¹ of it, for I never saw father and child soe fond as they ear of wan another.

I can say noe more for I most writ[e] to him and send him a receat³¹² for the pills, but I fear [what] his [illness requires] is more then the pills. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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197. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 OCTOBER 1740

I had my dear sisters of the 16[th] last post and am sor[r]y you still compla[i]n of your cough and heed. I thank God mine is goeing off. I find no p[a]ine but just when I goe to rise of[f] my chear³¹³ and then I find a w[e]ight in my fore heed, but it goes off emedetly and that allsoe lessens. I have done nothing but only keeps my heed warmer then usell both night and day.

I am glad you lick³¹⁴ the linnin. I accounted it wo[ul]d make you 3 shifts and the fine piss 2 aprons. I had no more hear but a littell new keeps wan in stock.

I hear no more of H[enry] C[onyngnam] then you doe. Our nices Conyngnam writ[es] to me she will goe so[o]ne to England by the advise of her fri[e]nds to have things settled by him there according to the artickells.³¹⁵

My sister Jones is still at her sons³¹⁶ when she was to com[e] hear. He fell ill, e[i]ther a stra[i]n or gout, and as it was a bissey time with him, his wife³¹⁷ was obliged to be a brood³¹⁸ with his [business] and other co[u]ntery affear[s], soe his mother stayd with him. And senas he was able to goe out, he got a cut on his ankell which now she writ[e]s has confined him again. When she can l[e]ave him she will goe str[a]ight to Dublin whear I shall goe about ten days hence, for the we[a]ther is extramly

³⁰⁷ *Lege* own.

³⁰⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

³⁰⁹ *Lege* surgeon.

³¹⁰ Unidentified.

³¹¹ Alice Burton (1728–45).

³¹² *Lege* receipt, a recipe for medicine.

³¹³ *Lege* chair.

³¹⁴ *Lege* like.

³¹⁵ *Lege* articles, legal documents.

³¹⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

³¹⁷ Elenor Jones.

³¹⁸ *Lege* abroad.

cold. The jackalet proved very good, but I like it best with more vennallas³¹⁹ in it.

I had last night a letter from our nephew H[enry] Conyngham]. He has bine in Kent³²⁰ and in such a hurry he co[ul]d not writ[e]. I wrot[e] to you about ten or 12 days ago and can say no more but all fri[e]nds well, and that I am with true affection, yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] This is wrot[e] in a hurry, won [person is] goeing to Dublin.

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198. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 NOVEMBER 1740

I think I am 4 letters in my dear sisters deet,³²¹ 3 of [them] I am sure of, for soe meny I got last night with 4 packets that came in together and as no boats was in this side we co[ul]d send no letters, and I am not sure wither I wrot[e] wanst senas I sent the bill, which I am glad you have got it, for I am sure you wanted it.

I have soe meny letters to writ[e] this day you most be content with a short wan. I tell you we ear all well. My heed now prity well and tho[ugh] we have the very coldest we[a]ther I find I have hither too escaped colds, but my co[l]ds comes allways after Cristmass and I am in a hurry in buying m[o]urning for poor Col[one] Dallaway.³²² I am never out of m[o]urning my self but all my diff[e]rence is from black and whit[e] to plean.³²³ I shall buy iern³²⁴ gray but Miss Burton³²⁵ most be deeper. Poor nices Conyngham is greatly tr[o]ubled. He³²⁶ was a good fri[e]nd to her and had more power with H[enry] C[onyngham] then any body. His death will I fear put all her affers quit[e] back. His poor mother³²⁷ is most to be pityed, never lived so good a son, and to all my dear brother's childrin³²⁸ he has allways acted with great kindness and good nature.

Sister Jones well, her son³²⁹ better. He is not so fat as his father³³⁰ but [he] loves to eat and drink heartily as ever he did. Rafe Samson has his eldest son³³¹ a deying this 8 wicks. Forst the small pox, then a purging and vomiting, then a sevear cough, now

³¹⁹ *Lege* vanilla.

³²⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and Williams Conyngham (1698–1738) inherited an estate in Isle of Thanet, Kent, through their mother, Mary Williams (1673–1710), Lady Shelburne.

³²¹ *Lege* debt.

³²² Col Robert Dalaway (1669–1740): see letter no. 39, note 454

³²³ *Lege* plain.

³²⁴ *Lege* iron.

³²⁵ Alice Burton (1729–45).

³²⁶ Col Robert Dalaway (1669–1740).

³²⁷ Unidentified.

³²⁸ The children of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mary Williams (1673–1710), Lady Shelburne were Williams (1698–1738), Henry (Harry) (1707–81) and Mary (Missey) (d. 1737) Conyngham: see letter no. 197.

³²⁹ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

³³⁰ Richard Jones (1662–1729) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

³³¹ Possibly Richard Sampson, born 12 May 1723 in Dublin, son of Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

a mortification in his back, I long to hear he is deed. Another child,³³² 4 ye[a]r old can not stand. They ear all the most miserable rotten childrin as ever was boorn. She³³³ is a great and foull b[re]eder.

I'll send to Draughada³³⁴ for some esquabath for you tho[ugh] they say its not soe good as it used to be, but when the gout gets in to the stomach nothing is fo[u]nd better then a spo[o]nfull or tow of the jouce of tancey³³⁵ in a glass of any strong wine and repe[a]ted.

I have made this letter much longer then I intended soe will say noe more to my dear sister but that I am sencerly yours, K: C:

[PS] I have not yet h[e]ard of the jackalet. I'll so[o]ne send you a bill for it. Sister Jones thanks you for the palley³³⁶ drops.

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199. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 19 DECEMBER 1740

I had my dear sisters of the 5[th] by the last packet. It sho[ul]d have come the packet or 2 before. I wrot[e] to [you the] 9th, the 6[th], and sent you a bill for the jackalet which is not yet ar[r]ived. No ships come from Chester but 2 or 3 this month and as it was put on boord the 'Pearll' gall[e]y, its not come in. I payd Mrs Knaas³³⁷ order a g[u]iney. I have what will sarve me till affter Christmass. When I teast it you shall know how I like it. When I have any more I'll have the dubbell³³⁸ quantety as you advise.

The we[a]ther still continius most sevear. More snow fallan then did last year with a very hard frost, the poor in a most miserable condition. For breed³³⁹ and all sorts provis[i]ons soe excess[iv]ly dear that its hard for them of fortune[e] to consider how many poor objectis most be reli[e]ved.

I beli[e]ve my sister wrot[e] to you that Raph Samsons³⁴⁰ son was deed. I think they have 2 sons and 3 daughters. They have a girill,³⁴¹ I think 4 year[s] old [who] cannot stand.

If the we[a]ther allows I will goe to Castelltown Monday or Tu[e]sday for a few days for I am allways warmer there than here. Tho[ugh] close by the fire, I am soe

³³² Possibly Mary Sampson, baptised in St Mary's Church, Dublin, on 5 May 1737.

³³³ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–86), wife of Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

³³⁴ *Lege* Drogheda, Co. Louth, which was famous for its usquebaugh, whiskey cordial.

³³⁵ *Lege* juice of tansy. Tansy is a flowering herbaceous plant found in almost all parts of Europe. It has a long history of medicinal use to treat intestinal worms, rheumatism, digestive problems, fevers, sores and as a face wash to lighten and purify the skin.

³³⁶ *Lege* palsy. Palsy drops: see letter no. 88, note 342.

³³⁷ Unidentified.

³³⁸ *Lege* double.

³³⁹ *Lege* bread.

³⁴⁰ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763): see letter no. 198, note 331.

³⁴¹ Possibly Mary Sampson: see letter no. 198, note 332.

cold I can scars[e] hold the pen. Ni[e]ce C[onyngham], my girill³⁴² and all fri[e]nds well. I can say noe more, but I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: Conolly

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200. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 JANUARY 1740[/41]

I had my dear sisters of New Years day. I thank you for your good wishes. I have but littell to say but I got yours but 2 days agoe which came in with packets last Satterday. I did long to hear from you and my fri[e]nds in England. Our we[a]ther is tollerably good but very cold. They say its good we[a]ther for the co[u]nterey, but this is a bad r[a]iney day.

I thank God I hold out prity well which is all the news you can expect from me hear. I think nixt wick of goeing to Dublin till towards E[a]stear. The poor hear is in a very bad way. Grean³⁴³ is a littell fallan. Your nicis³⁴⁴ send[s] her duty and severall of your fri[e]nds hear there servacies, especially sister Jones and the widow Samson.³⁴⁵ I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Cold hinders me from saying more.

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201. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 2 FEBRUARY 1740[/41]

I have too letters from my dear sister unanswered for I told you in my last I wo[ul]d not writ[e] so[o]ne. Your forst letter was the 13[th], that which I got yest[e]rday [the] 26[th]. I wonder in nather of them you doe not mention your get[e]ing mine with the bill for the jacklet which I doe not remember you told me, tho[ugh] I have a notion you did. I have teasted the jackalet, I think it good but there is some thing [in it that] teasts a little musty. I hope it will goe off, it was long by the way,³⁴⁶ and as I have taken it out of the box I hope it will.

I thank you for the palsy drops. I delay[e]d writing till I co[ul]d send you a bill. I have still made it the 35 po[u]nds which I will continue till things grows ch[e]aper in your part of the world, but you must send my 2 boys³⁴⁷ crowns a piss³⁴⁸ when you have [the] op[p]ertunaty. God bless them and make them good.

Sir John King dyed at Spaw³⁴⁹ 2 months ago but the account came by the last

³⁴² Alice Burton (1789–45).

³⁴³ *Lege* grain.

³⁴⁴ *Lege* niece, Alice Burton (1728–45).

³⁴⁵ Jane Sampson (*née* McCausland) (1685–1764): see letter no. 107, note 620.

³⁴⁶ Referring to the long journey it took.

³⁴⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

³⁴⁸ *Lege* apiece.

³⁴⁹ Katherine is mistaken in the name; Sir Henry King (*c.* 1681–1740), 3rd bt, of Boyle Abbey, Co. Roscommon, died in 1740 at Spa, in what later became Belgium. The son of Sir Robert King and Frances Gore, he succeeded as 3rd bt in 1720. He married Isabella Wingfield, daughter of Edward Wingfield and Eleanor Gore, in April 1722. He was MP for Boyle, 1707–27, and for Co. Roscommon, 1727–40. Jane Bonnell held a bond against the King estate; see Introduction, note 50 and letters nos 154, 237 and 238: *HIP*.

packet. My sister Jones has wrot[e] to his agent how³⁵⁰ writ[e]s [that] yours shall be the first payd.

I am sor[r]y to find you ear soe much out of order. I hope this fine warm, mild we[a]ther we have had for 4 or 5 days will be off sarvices to you as it is to meny constetutions³⁵¹ hear. But before that we had most cold wet windy we[a]ther such as you mention. Many letters to writ[e], all fri[e]nds well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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202. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 FEBRUARY 1740[/41]

I had 2 letters from my dear sister by 2 packets that came last Friday and Sunday. As to yours of the 13[th] I shall answer it forst which will be short, and tell you I am glad your bill came safe and soe so[o]ne and I hope it will be in these hard, hard time, of great use to you. I believe you will so[o]ne get Sir Harry King's mon[e]y.³⁵² As to the jackalet, I dou[b]t not of its proveing very good, the papers is drey³⁵³ and the box, but it was neer 2 months a ship boord.

You need not send the boys³⁵⁴ there mon[e]y till E[a]ster, and tho[ugh] it will be some expenas to you I sho[ul]d be glad they wear with you. It will be some satisfacton to you to see them and in my nixt bill to you I will send you a g[u]iney a wick for there expensis to you for as meny wicks as they ear with you. Our we[a]ther is just as you mention, only these 3 or 4 days we have a sharp frost.

I wonder you have not h[e]ard of the iesqubath³⁵⁵ and black sleat.³⁵⁶ Mr Darby Clark³⁵⁷ toke the care of it from me long before Xmas. He is not now in town but will [be] so[o]ne, [so] when he is I'll aske him about them. As to yours of the 16[th], I have wrot[e] 2 letters to Mr Conolly³⁵⁸ on the same subjict, for in wan I wrot[e] to him this day, I told him that he wo[ul]d get a letter deliv[e]red to him from me of the same deat³⁵⁹ of this by wan Mr Fitesummons,³⁶⁰ and [I] allsoe told him of the great hardships it was to the poor gentellman, and intreated him to doe him any sarvices he co[ul]d. I remember Mr Darby Clark brought him hear wanst or twist. God knows how I am plagued and turmented³⁶¹ every day of my life, that it makes my life une[a]sey to me, for they have taken it in there heeds that I can dispose of

³⁵⁰ *Recte* who.

³⁵¹ *Lege* constitutions.

³⁵² See letter no. 160, note 349, also letter no. 201.

³⁵³ *Lege* dry.

³⁵⁴ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

³⁵⁵ *Lege* whiskey cordial.

³⁵⁶ Unclear.

³⁵⁷ Darby Clark, examiner of the Excise, brother to Mr Smith, the London friend of Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745): see letters nos 40 and 202. For Mr Smith, see letter no. 90.

³⁵⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁵⁹ *Lege* date.

³⁶⁰ Unidentified, but a person who was seeking the patronage of the Conolly family.

³⁶¹ *Lege* tormented.

forty things more then I can dow.³⁶² That now all men of business is a fread³⁶³ to come neer me for fear I sho[ul]d aske for soom poor body or other.

I inclose you derections for a ballsome,³⁶⁴ which I had from an old acquantans³⁶⁵ of ours, Mrs Stafford O Broyn – now by Act of Parl[ia]m[en]t Mrs Stafford again.³⁶⁶ She says no body was ever worse with astima³⁶⁷ and shortness of bre[a]th and that she had more reli[e]fe by it then any thing she ever toke. Its very ch[e]ap, 18 penas³⁶⁸ a bottell with prented³⁶⁹ derections how take it. For coughs and s[t]uffing in the chist³⁷⁰ she never knew the like. 10, 15 or 16 drops she tak[e]s going to bed on a lump of suger. She gave me a bottell when my cold was very bad but as it was then growing better I did not take it. She tells me she has given it to meny p[e]opell hear that had great benyfit by it.

Now I may tell you the most mallancolly thing I know which has given me a vast deall of tr[o]uble – my poor cousen Currys only son³⁷¹ and wan of the best young men in the world – has bine ill these 4 months in a deep decay. About 3 wicks a goe there was a great alltaration for the better which gave great joy to all his fri[e]nds, but last Wednesday he grew worse and worse and deyd last Friday, to the unexpres[s]able loss to his famally. And how I pity his poor mother, the tenderest son of hers, and she the very fondest mother ever was. I most writ[e] to her soe. [I] most bid my dear sister farwell. Yours sincer[e]ly, Ka: Conolly

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203. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 7 MARCH 1740[/41]

I had my dear sisters of the 13[th] of Febr[uar]y and had wrot[e] to you 2 or 3 days before it came and thought answering it emedetly³⁷² was too so[o]ne, and now I have bine tow long of telling you I am glad you got the bill and that it was soe exceptble³⁷³ to you. You may depend I shall not be worse then my promiss as to the sume mentioned.

You say all things is very deer. I am sure never such reats³⁷⁴ given hear as is now.³⁷⁵ Last Satterday I gave 6 pen[ni]es a po[u]nd for beefe and the same reat for veal, and

³⁶² *Lege* do.

³⁶³ *Lege* afraid.

³⁶⁴ Balsam, a preparation containing resinous substances and having a balsamic odour.

³⁶⁵ *Lege* acquaintance.

³⁶⁶ Possibly Susanna Stafford (d. 1743), daughter of William Stafford, who married firstly Henry O'Brien, son of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st bt, and his wife Elizabeth Deane in 1699. She married secondly Arthur Geoghegan.

³⁶⁷ *Lege* asthma.

³⁶⁸ *Lege* pennies.

³⁶⁹ *Lege* printed.

³⁷⁰ *Lege* chest.

³⁷¹ Leslie Corry (1712–41), eldest son of Col John Corry (1667–1726) and his wife Sarah (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

³⁷² *Lege* immediately.

³⁷³ *Lege* acceptable.

³⁷⁴ *Lege* rates.

³⁷⁵ The subsistence crisis of 1740–41 was due to extreme cold (the great frost of 1739–41 that struck Ireland and Europe), resulting in food losses across all areas of production in Ireland. As a result of the distress caused, Katherine commissioned the construction of 'Conolly's Folly' in 1740 to give employment to local workers: see David Dickson, *Arctic Ireland: the extraordinary story of the great frost and forgotten famine of 1740–41* (Belfast, 1997).

soe in importion³⁷⁶ for every thing. Pigiions 20 penas³⁷⁷ to 2 shillings a piss, not a chickin if I wo[ul]d give ten shillin[g]s a piss, for the de[a]rnness for corn and the great scarcity of meat the poor pipoll³⁷⁸ eat all there old foulds. For my part I am brock³⁷⁹ with that and meny other things I have to doe deally.³⁸⁰ I have taken all the care possible about the jackalet and dou[b]t not but it will prove good soe be not une[a]sey about it.

Poor Lady King³⁸¹ is in high affliction, her eldest son Sir Robert is ether deed or deying of a spot[t]ed favour.³⁸² A hopefull youth past 16, he was alive last night. He is in the co[u]ntery 6 milles off and of the best docters constantly there.

I spoke to Mr Clark about the sleat and esqubath.³⁸³ He says its gone above a month a goe, soe by this time I hope you will hear of it. In heast, but still my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] All fri[e]nds well I beli[e]ve. I wrot[e] to you of the death of poor cousen Currys only son,³⁸⁴ wan of the best young men ever lived.

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204. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 MARCH 1740/[41]

I have bine longer then usell³⁸⁵ of writing to my dear sister. Yours of the 6[th] I rece[i]v[e]d by the last packet, 3 came in allmost together. Mr Conolly³⁸⁶ wrot[e] me word that it was too leat to get any thing done for Mr Fitsimons,³⁸⁷ I pity the poor man. Poor cousen Curry³⁸⁸ is in a most mallancolly condition, what with her sorrow and her poor wack constatusion³⁸⁹ she is redused to the last degree of wackness and I fear will not long survive her son.³⁹⁰

I long to hear you have got the boys³⁹¹ with you for they will be some ple[a]sure to you. Mr Burton³⁹² that has bine hear above a month goes home a Monday in order

³⁷⁶ *Lege* proportion.

³⁷⁷ *Lege* pennies.

³⁷⁸ *Lege* people.

³⁷⁹ *Lege* broke.

³⁸⁰ *Lege* daily.

³⁸¹ Isabella Wingfield (d. 1761), was the daughter of Edward Wingfield and his wife Eleanor Gore. She married Sir Henry King (1680–1741), 3rd bt, in April 1722. Her eldest son Sir Robert King (c. 1724–1755), 4th bt, was MP for Boyle, 1743–8, and grand master of the freemasons of Ireland, 1749–50. Created Baron Kingsborough in 1748, he died unmarried in May 1755 and the barony became extinct: *HIP*.

³⁸² *Lege* fever.

³⁸³ See letter no. 202.

³⁸⁴ Leslie Corry (1712–41): see letter no. 202, note 371.

³⁸⁵ *Lege* usual.

³⁸⁶ William Conolly (1706–54)

³⁸⁷ Unidentified: see letter no. 202.

³⁸⁸ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie).

³⁸⁹ *Lege* weak constitution.

³⁹⁰ Leslie Corry (1712–41) who had recently died: see letter no. 202, note 371.

³⁹¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

³⁹² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

to goe emedety³⁹³ to Bath.³⁹⁴ Not that he is ill, but [he] is advised to it aff[e]r his long illness last year. I never saw him look better or have less complai[n]ts in his stomach.

You say every day brings some mallancolly account or other. I am sure I am sho[c]ked at hear[ing] soe meny I know; one gentellwoman of fortune that is with a daughter hear in town that has with in these ten days burryed 2 grand childrin, a son in law – a man of fortune – his wife big with child and very ill in the co[u]ntery, and a nother d[au]ghter that was married to a releation of my Mr Conollys³⁹⁵ is allsoe in soe wack a condition she expects to hear every day of her death. This daughter, she is with her, she expects to dye every hour and she cannot l[e]ave her. She was married about a year agoe to a tennet³⁹⁶ of mine, all her daughters had [£]2,500. Her eldest son is mar[r]yed to Will[iam] Bourk's³⁹⁷ youngest daughter and she [is] ill with a misscarrig[e]. Will[iam] Burk gave her 4000 po[u]nds. Not a day but I hear of such dissmall things from the highes[t] to the lowest and the poor a starving. The great collections and great charitys given hear, but every thing soe deer that hardly poor or rich can buy bread, corn 40 shillin[g]s the small barrall.

Now I wish I co[ul]d tell my dear sister some thing more aggre[e]able. Sir Robert King³⁹⁸ in a fear³⁹⁹ way of recovery. His greatest complai[n]t now is a p[ai]ne and great swelling in wan knee. 3 of our best docters has [attended] constantly, 2 there every night and wan came to town as the other went there. They had five g[u]ineys a piss every day for a month and now surg[e]ons for his knee. He is well able to bear the expence. Poor Cornat Echlin⁴⁰⁰ that deyed last September and his wife in December an houre affter she was deliv[e]red of a son, [that child] is now in the small pox that is with the 2 other childrin at S[i]r Robert Echlin⁴⁰¹ in the co[u]ntery. I sent to inquire and they think him in a good way. I pray God he may live for as Sir Robert has but wan daughter,⁴⁰² that esteat most come to the most worthless wrack⁴⁰³ in the world, Parson Hary Echlin,⁴⁰⁴ Sir Harys son.⁴⁰⁵

I wonder you have not h[e]ard of the esqubath⁴⁰⁶ and sleat, for Mr Darby Clark⁴⁰⁷ says the ship left this some months agoe.

³⁹³ *Lege* immediately.

³⁹⁴ Bath, Somerset, England, a spa town.

³⁹⁵ William Conolly (1662–1729).

³⁹⁶ *Lege* tenant.

³⁹⁷ Unidentified, probably a tenant.

³⁹⁸ Sir Robert King: see letter no. 204, note 381.

³⁹⁹ *Lege* fair.

⁴⁰⁰ William Echlin (1703–40) was son of Sir Henry Echlin (1652–1725) and Agnes Mussen; he married Rachel McCausland (*née* Hamilton) (c. 1708–1740), widow of Col Robert McCausland (b. 1694).

⁴⁰¹ Sir Robert Echlin 2nd bt (1699–1757).

⁴⁰² Elizabeth Echlin, only child of Sir Robert Echlin (1699–1757), 2nd bt, and Elizabeth Echlin (*née* Bellingham).

⁴⁰³ *Lege* wreck.

⁴⁰⁴ Rev. Henry Echlin (d. 1764) married Lady Jane Moore, daughter of the 5th earl of Drogheda. His grandson, Sir James Echlin (1769–1833), became 4th bt.

⁴⁰⁵ Sir Henry Echlin (1652–1725).

⁴⁰⁶ *Lege* whiskey cordial.

⁴⁰⁷ Darby Clark, examiner of the excise: see letters nos 40, 120 and 202.

I have made this a much longer letter then I intended. I goe to Castelltown nixt wick, for about 3 wicks or a month for I never goe to settell till May or June. Sister Jones is well and goes with me. Your neices⁴⁰⁸ is duty attends you. She grows tell⁴⁰⁹ and is a good girill and much esteemed by all p[e]opell. She is the greatest beg[gl]er for poor p[e]opell and when she gives a way all her one pocket mon[e]y, mine most goe nixt. I shall say no more but her love and mine to the boys.⁴¹⁰ I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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205. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 APRIL 1741

Yesterday I was made hap[p]y by 2 letters from my dear sister with the joyfull account of dear Willeys⁴¹¹ being out of all danger for which I thank God most heartily and gri[e]ved that you wear allmost starved. Now I hope you may get some food every day. I might admire at what you say about the scarsety of chickin when about six wicks agoe I wo[ul]d have given crowns a piss,⁴¹² I co[ul]d not get them, but now we have them in plenty. I wish you had some of mine.

Mr Burton⁴¹³ went off last Wedensday. He was very unhap[p]y till he got a ship to Chester. We think he most have had a good pasige.⁴¹⁴ Is your made⁴¹⁵ come back or has she taken it senas Mrs Flecher⁴¹⁶ has had the small pox and leatly soe. I beli[e]ve the boy⁴¹⁷ brought the infection with him.

Our bread and all sorts of provision is as deer hear as it can be any whear. Our breed⁴¹⁸ 2 penc[e]s half pen[n]y a po[u]nd. Doe not starve yourself tho[ugh] things ear soe dear, I'll so[o]ne send your bill.

My sister Pearson has bine very ill. Its now in her ankell, her instep and her toe and now ap[p]ears to be the gout. I shall, if she grows better, goe there in May. Sister Jones is very well, she holds out bet[t]er then any body. I have no sort of news but that we ear all tollarabell well. My neics Conyngham is very well, she dined hear yesterday, doth not yet say when she goes for England but I beli[e]ve not before Jully or A[u]g[us]t. My girill⁴¹⁹ gives you her duty and love to her brother.⁴²⁰ She did not know till yesterday her brother was ill. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate K: C:

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⁴⁰⁸ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴⁰⁹ *Lege* tall.

⁴¹⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴¹¹ William Burton (1733–96), who had been suffering from smallpox.

⁴¹² *Lege* piece.

⁴¹³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴¹⁴ *Lege* passage.

⁴¹⁵ *Recte* maid.

⁴¹⁶ Unidentified, but probably a servant to the Burton boys.

⁴¹⁷ Referring to child of the servant Mrs Fletcher.

⁴¹⁸ *Lege* bread.

⁴¹⁹ Alice Burton (1729–45).

⁴²⁰ William Burton (1733–96).

206. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 2 MAY 1741

I had my dear sisters of 16[th] and answ[e]red yours of the 13th and told you I had got some franks from the sec[re]terey⁴²¹ and he has given l[e]ave to have my letters inclosed to him till the elections⁴²² is over, and I hope your fri[e]nd that used to frank your letters will be in the parl[ia]m[en]t again for your sack.⁴²³

I do rejoy with you and thanks God for the dear boys⁴²⁴ recovery. I beli[e]ve Mr Burton⁴²⁵ is with you before this. He went a ship boord about an houre before I had your comfortable letter. I sent affter him but he was gone. I h[e]ard from him from Chester the day affter he left this. I have littell to say but hopes you have both met now every day.

All fri[e]nds well hear. I long to hear now that your great frights and fatuges⁴²⁶ is over [and that] now rest agrees with you. I send you a bill on Mr Nisbet, your one⁴²⁷ [for] 5 pu]nd and 5 po[u]nd for the tow⁴²⁸ boys⁴²⁹ being with you. Mr Burtons bill he sent you will I hope defray all your expences about Willy tho[ugh] nothing he can doe can make a mends for all your tr[o]uble and fatuge. If the boys is to be with you at Whitsin-tide, this 5 po[u]nd is to sarve for both times, for at present I am very poor in London for my tennent never pays till near Michellmass.

Sister Jones and my girill⁴³⁰ is well. I have meny letters to writ[e] for I live in a hurry and am quit[e] tyerd of it. Love to dear Willy, and his sisters her duty to you. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/14

207. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 MAY 1741

I have 2 letters in 2 days from my dear sister. I sent yours as derected. My ness Conyngham is very well as is all your fri[e]nds hear. I am just going to Castelltown for 3 or 4 days and this comes only to tell you we ear all well.

I am glad it is not the small pox your nurse's child⁴³¹ has for I know it wo[ul]d tr[o]uble you and the poor woman. Mr Potters⁴³² name is John, but if you derected to Mr Seceterey Potter at the Castell of Dublin it wo[ul]d doe I beli[e]ve. I long to hear you have got my last bill of 40 po[u]nd, I sent it under a cover of Mr Potters the 2[n]d of May I beli[e]ve.

⁴²¹ John Potter, under-secretary of state, c. 1720–1750.

⁴²² Henry Conyngham (1693–1749) was returned to the House of Commons as MP for Killybegs in 1741: *HIP*, iii, 483–4.

⁴²³ *Lege* sake.

⁴²⁴ William Burton (1733–96).

⁴²⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴²⁶ *Lege* fatigues.

⁴²⁷ *Lege* own.

⁴²⁸ *Lege* two.

⁴²⁹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴³⁰ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴³¹ This refers to the maid's child contracting smallpox: see letter no. 205.

⁴³² John Potter, under-secretary: see note 421 above.

Before this Mr Burton⁴³³ and the boys⁴³⁴ is with you. He writ[e]s to his daughter⁴³⁵ when he has weated on you. He will take his sons to Ham[p]ton Court to see his mother.⁴³⁶ I am sor[r]y you compla[i]ne for want of breath. It's a most ter[r]rible disorder. The sheep⁴³⁷ that to[o]ke the esqubath and sleat⁴³⁸ to you before Xmas says he put it in a store house in London and that it is there. And Mr Clark⁴³⁹ says he will get an order from Capt[ain] Thomas the Dublin arct⁴⁴⁰ this day and inclose it to you in this cover if he can met with Thomas.

We ear still in great want of r[a]ine. Every thing burnt up and all the mills wants watter, soe that those that has corn cannot get it ground. I am my dear sister ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/14

208. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 MAY 1741

I am 2 letters in my dear sisters deat,⁴⁴¹ wan of the 13[th], the other I had last night of the 18[th] with wan from Frank Burton.⁴⁴² I am glad your bill came safe to you and that it was exceptble⁴⁴³ and that you have had the ple[a]sure of the dear boys and there fathers⁴⁴⁴ company, but I beli[e]ve they made no great stay with you.

I am glad to find your made is come back to you. It wo[ul]d have bine a sad tr[o]uble to you when you had your young and old gentry with you not to have her at home. I hope Mr Burton was generous to the nurse and your land lady. I am sure he owes a gre[a]t deall to you.⁴⁴⁵

I am glad you had the r[a]ine you mention. We had some hear about that time but not sences, but very hot scorching we[a]ther. I am sor[r]y your fri[e]nd Mr Prics⁴⁴⁶ did not stand. As to Mr Conollys⁴⁴⁷ frankes, wear⁴⁴⁸ he is in London I wo[ul]d writ[e] to him about it, but before a letter co[ul]d re[a]ch him he will be set out for Ierland, for I expect him very so[o]ne. I co[ul]d then [and] will contrive some way about [sending] letters when he comes.

⁴³³ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴³⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his sons, Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴³⁵ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴³⁶ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁴³⁷ *Lege* ship.

⁴³⁸ *Lege* whiskey cordial and slate: see letter no. 198 above.

⁴³⁹ Possibly Darby Clark, examiner of the excise, Jane Bonnell's (c. 1670–1745) friend in London: see letters nos 40, 120 and 202.

⁴⁴⁰ It is unclear what Katherine means by the use of this abbreviation; possibly merchant.

⁴⁴¹ *Lege* debt.

⁴⁴² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴⁴³ *Lege* acceptable.

⁴⁴⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his sons Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴⁴⁵ This refers to Jane Bonnell's maid's contracting smallpox: see letters nos 205 and 207.

⁴⁴⁶ Unidentified, but see letter no. 111.

⁴⁴⁷ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁴⁸ *Lege* where.

Your nesses Conyngham is very well, I saw her yesterday. She gives her service[e]s to you as doth sister Jones who is very well. I expect cousen Curry⁴⁴⁹ in town so[o]ne to come to her daughter Matty Currys lying in, for she and Capt[ain] Leslie⁴⁵⁰ takes now the name of Curry senas May Day by her grandf[a]ther's settellment and her fathers will in case of noe sons by poor Curry.

This I think I told you before and has littell more to say, but that I think the latter end of this wick to goe to Beamore⁴⁵¹ for a wick, for I had bine there a wick agoe but for my sister's illness. I only weated for my sister's being soe well as to come down stayers which I heard yesterday she was able to doe. I'll make your complam[en]ts to her.

Pegy Hamilton⁴⁵² and her famally ear well, she was hear all day yesterday and looks extr[e]amly well. I wish you had seen my girills with her brother,⁴⁵³ it wo[ul]d have bine the prityest sight you co[ul]d see. You know what the boys is and I think her not inferior to any of them, nather as to parson⁴⁵⁴ or mind. I cannot say she is mighty han[d]some but allowed to be wan of the prityest, gentellyst⁴⁵⁵ girills in Dublin, well-shaped and the most obliging sivell cr[e]ature, with a vast deall of humility and quit[e] obed[i]ant to all I wo[ul]d have her doe. You will say I am parshall⁴⁵⁶ (but I am not). I am my dear sisters ever af[e]act[ionate], Ka: Conolly

[PS] This day we have a very fine refreshing [rain] – lasted 2 hours – which as we have had senas the 14th. You may derect your nixt to Mr Conolly for I am sure he will be hear by the time you get this. If not I'll open his letter if it be derected by you.

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209. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 9 JUNE 1741

Ab[ou]t ten minnets agoe I had my dear sisters of the 17[th]. I was but just returned from Beamore when I had yours. I fo[u]nd my sister⁴⁵⁷ just able to get down stayers with help; when I left her she co[ul]d walk very well about. She inquired much about you. She is chirfull⁴⁵⁸ and looks very well, this last fit has shaken her much. I will tell Mr Potter⁴⁵⁹ about his letters being charged. I am glad to hear your bad fit of the collick went soe so[o]ne off.

⁴⁴⁹ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie), of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁴⁵⁰ Martha (Matty) Leslie (*née* Corry) (1704/05–c. 1764) married Capt Edmund Leslie (d. 1764) in 1738. He assumed the surname Corry.

⁴⁵¹ Beamore, Drogheda, Co. Louth, the residence of Anne (Nancy) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁴⁵² Catherine Hamilton (*née* Leslie) (1682–1756): see letter no. 194, note 288.

⁴⁵³ It is unclear exactly who Katherine refers to in the plural; only her ward Alice Burton (1728–45) was living with her at this time.

⁴⁵⁴ *Lege* person.

⁴⁵⁵ *Lege* gentlest.

⁴⁵⁶ *Lege* partial.

⁴⁵⁷ Anne (Jane) Pearson (*née* Conolly) (1684–1749).

⁴⁵⁸ *Lege* cheerful.

⁴⁵⁹ John Potter, under-secretary: see letter no. 206, note 421.

Mr Burton wro[e]t to his daughter⁴⁶⁰ he wo[ul]d take the boys⁴⁶¹ with him to see there grandmother,⁴⁶² which I thought he had done. I am sorry you have them soe long beca[us]e I know the fears and frights you must be in about them. I believe H[enry] C[onyng]ham, his election,⁴⁶³ did not cost neer soe much as was given out it did. But he now talks of settelling, which wo[ul]d give all his fri[e]nds ple[a]sure.⁴⁶⁴ I am sure it wo[ul]d to me, and this I beli[e]ve is true beca[us]e I hear he has sent over for a true and rent rooll⁴⁶⁵ of all his esteats.

We have for this fortnight past had a great deall of r[a]ine and has done vast sarvic to the gras[s] and corn tho[ugh] every thing keeps up very dear.

Direct your nixt under cover to Mr Conolly.⁴⁶⁶ I expect him this wick and then I shall goe to Casteltown for some months. Poor cosen Curry is come to stay with her daughter Matty⁴⁶⁷ till she is brought to bed about 5 or 6 wicks henas and I hope will continue with her all winter. She looks better and is better then I expected. I am hurried for the post [so] can say no more then I am [your] most affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Love to the boys and there sisters her duty to you. Sister Jones was with me at Beamore and is very well. I have this minnat sent you a piss of 2 yard wide di[a]per for six table cloths – its not fine nor is any very fine made of that bre[a]dth – and ten yards of linnin for shifts. Its derected to be left at Mr Hores for you, the ship that takes it sealls⁴⁶⁸ to morrow. The man that sends it puts it up with some of his one that he is sending to his correspnd[ent] in London. Have you got the black sleat and the esquabath?⁴⁶⁹

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**210. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE,
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 6 AUGUST 1741**

I have not wro[e]t to my dear sister senas the 15[th] of July and did not then intend to writ[e] any more till I co[ul]d send you a bill for this quarters allowances which I hear inclose. I have made it still the forty po[un]ds, for tho[ugh] I thank God every thing is fallan hear, I doe not know how it is with you yet, but your nixt will not be soe much. And out of this send the 2 littell Burtons⁴⁷⁰ crowns a piss; I h[e]ard from

⁴⁶⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), and his daughter, Alice (1728–45).

⁴⁶¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴⁶² Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁴⁶³ See letter no. 206, note 422.

⁴⁶⁴ Henry was still single and was beginning to consider matrimony. He did not marry until 1744/45: NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,579/4.

⁴⁶⁵ *Lege* roll.

⁴⁶⁶ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁶⁷ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh, and Martha (Matty) Leslie (*née* Corry) (1704/05–c. 1764) who was awaiting the birth of her only child, John Leslie-Corry (1741–3).

⁴⁶⁸ *Lege* sails.

⁴⁶⁹ *Lege* black slate and whiskey: see letter no. 207.

⁴⁷⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

there father as so[o]n as he landed. I asked you before what present he made you for your care and tr[o]uble about his Willey and to the p[e]opell about him.

Have you got your di[a]per, for the ship got safe to London a month agoe and the linnin draper has asked me 2 or 3 times if you had got it.

Sister Jones went to Dollantown yesterday, her daughters⁴⁷¹ reckoning be just out, and [she] will not return she says hear till Sept[em]b[e]r, and then last come hear in her way to Dublin. I am very sor[r]y she has left me, but her daughters leying in mad[e] it nesscerey she sho[ul]d goe.

I have a house full now with me. I send this to Mr Conolly⁴⁷² to be franked. Lady Ann⁴⁷³ is leying in of a daughter. I wish it had bine a son for tho[ugh] he has wan fine boy I sho[ul]d be glad of another. His boy and girill⁴⁷⁴ he left at Layslip ear well.

I shall add no more but to as[s]ure my dear sisters [I am your] ever affactionate sister, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I wrot[e] 5 wick agoe to Hary C[onyngham] but has not h[e]ard from him senas nor a word of his marri[a]ge.⁴⁷⁵ If you know any thing let me know.

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211. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 AUGUST 1741

I wrot[e] to my dear sister the 6[th] inst and in it I sent you a bill for 40 po[u]nd inclosed to Mr Conolly⁴⁷⁶ to get franked. I have no[t] h[e]ard senas from you and wo[ul]d not writ[e] now but to as[s]ure you my cousen Jeny Hamilton⁴⁷⁷ has left you 200 po[u]nd. She has deyed rich and they say has made a very right will. I cannot tell you the partick[u]lers but my cousen Curry⁴⁷⁸ h[e]ard it, rec[eive]d 2 or days agoe. She had severall vall[u]able things not mentioned in the will and the words [in the will] ear these: ‘affter paying all my legescys mentioned in my will all I have over and above my legyseys I l[e]ave to be disposed off as my brother Hary⁴⁷⁹ and Mrs Bonnell⁴⁸⁰ plans’. I sopose you have before this had a partick[u]ler account from her brother, soe I say this, that if you have not h[e]ard from him its as I tell you.

⁴⁷¹ Referring to Elenor, wife of Roger Jones (d. 1747), whose residence was at Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

⁴⁷² William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁷³ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) was recovering from the birth of her daughter Lucy who died young.

⁴⁷⁴ Referring to Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71) and Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴⁷⁵ See letter no. 209.

⁴⁷⁶ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁷⁷ Possibly a daughter of Rev. Andrew Hamilton (1669–1753), archdeacon of Raphoe and his wife Sarah Anne (*née* Conynghame), daughter of Henry Conynghame of Castle Conyngham: see also letter no. 127.

⁴⁷⁸ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁴⁷⁹ Possibly Sir Henry Hamilton (1710–82) of Castle Conyngham: see note 477 above.

⁴⁸⁰ Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745).

Mrs Jones⁴⁸¹ not yet brought to bed. All well there and hear I thank God. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate Ka: Conolly

[PS] Bespeak jacolate.

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212. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, WRITTLE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, 22 SEPTEMBER 1741

Last Sunday night I had 2 letters from my dear sister which came with 5 packets that came that day. As to the di[a]per and ten yards of linnin, I wrot[e] to Albert Nisbet⁴⁸² and sent him derections to send some of his p[e]loppell to inqu[i]re at the facter⁴⁸³ or the parson⁴⁸⁴ that is consarned for the Ierish ships, and the nixt post affter I sent you the letter I had from the linnin draper hear that sent [it]. I hope, e[i]ther by Mr Nisbet or by the derections I sent you, it will be fo[u]nd out. I am sor[r]y I have payd for it.

I am sor[r]y you have such occasion for the assis milk.⁴⁸⁵ I hope you will find benyfict by it senas it agrees with you and nothing sho[ul]d be left undune when health require[e]s it.

We had hear from the 8[th] till the 14[th] more r[a]ine and storm then ever was known in the time. It did much damage in severall parts of the kingdome but not near soe much as has bine [done] in England. But now we have the finest we[a]ther I ever saw and great plenty in the co[u]ntery. But still the beg[g]ers swarms, for they have got such a custome of beg[g]ing they will not work, tho[ugh] they can get it.

What I sent Mr Jones⁴⁸⁶ is not worth nameing. I'll send my sisters letter by the forst. I hear his [produce?] proves well and a great quantety which I am glad off.

We ear well I thank God. I long to hear from Frank Burton; his daughter⁴⁸⁷ is quit[e] une[a]sey about it. I am glad his boys⁴⁸⁸ is well, God bless them and make them good men. I writ[e] in a hurry. All my fri[e]nds hear makes there complem[en]ts to you. I am my dear sisters, most sencerly yours, Ka: Conolly

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213. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 2 OCTOBER 1741

I have not wrot[e] to my dear sister sences the 22[nd] of last month and 2 packets agoe I had yours of the 19[th]. I had yours you mention, but hopes before this you

⁴⁸¹ Elenor Jones: see letter no. 210, note 471.

⁴⁸² Albert Nesbitt, London merchant and banker, see letter no. 69, note 21.

⁴⁸³ *Lege* factor.

⁴⁸⁴ *Lege* person.

⁴⁸⁵ *Lege* asses milk: see letter no. 78, note 168.

⁴⁸⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁴⁸⁷ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), who at the time was travelling to the continent and Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴⁸⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

got mine about the di[a]per and linin. If by what I wrot[e] to you and to Mr Nisbet you have not h[e]ard of it I give it for gone.

I am glad to hear the asses' milk⁴⁸⁹ agrees soe well with you, I hope you will continue it. I wrot[e] to you a great while ago to bespake jacket for me and before I sealed my letter I made my sarvant Ffiney⁴⁹⁰ mention it before he sealed my letter.

I am glad you had the ple[a]sure of seeing nieces Conyngham. She is a good womon, and I long to hear her brother⁴⁹¹ has settled with her. It's a shame she sho[ul]d be soe [troubled?].

We want 3 packets, I hope by then to hear its done and that you have got your di[a]per. I shall be goeing to Dublin about ten days hences, not to places [for] my self but [for] the girill⁴⁹² now when we have a court. She doth not desire nor never did goe often, but young p[e]opell most be indulged in some amusements. No girill was ever eseyer⁴⁹³ on that scoure.⁴⁹⁴ She has h[e]ard from [her] father⁴⁹⁵ leatly. He is at Spa, has had the gout, says nothing of comeing over. We sildome hear [from him] and I find letters doth misscarry.

The girill gives her duty to you; cousin Curry⁴⁹⁶ and some other fri[e]nds there sarvices in a kind manner attends you. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly.

[PS] Mention the boys⁴⁹⁷ when you writ[e].

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214. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 28 NOVEMBER 1741

I know it will give my dear sister ple[a]sure to see a letter under my hand, this is the forst I have wrot[e] this fortnight. I can now tell you my girill⁴⁹⁸ and I ear both prity well recov[er]ed I thank God. She was much worse then I was, I did not see her for 8 days.

I sopose you have h[e]ard of Mr Worth's⁴⁹⁹ death. He turned the very greatest sot I ever h[e]ard of, drunk at least 3 times a day, put to bed and up again; he deyed this day fortnight. Left they say a great fortune among his 3 daughters⁵⁰⁰ and in equall

⁴⁸⁹ *Lege* asses milk: see letter no. 78, note 168.

⁴⁹⁰ Katherine's trusted servant and a member of the Finey family of Celbridge, Co. Kildare. See letter no. 77.

⁴⁹¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁴⁹² Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴⁹³ *Lege* easier.

⁴⁹⁴ *Lege* score.

⁴⁹⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁴⁹⁶ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁴⁹⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁴⁹⁸ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁴⁹⁹ Edward Worth (1672–1741): see letter no. 128, note 172.

⁵⁰⁰ Jane Worth (1695–1762) who married James Persse in 1742; Alicia Worth (d. 1779) who married Robert O'Callaghan MP (d. 1760) in 1735, and Sarah Worth (1704–41) who married Edward Hoare (d. 1741).

shear⁵⁰¹ to his 2 grand sons⁵⁰² that his daughter Newinham left. But this is not all thats mallancolly and surprising for, upon his death it was rummerd that Sally⁵⁰³ was with child and that she was marryed privtly to young Mr Hore of Cork (indeed he was a prity young man), he deyed last summer. They say she gri[e]ved much for him in privit which did her hurt, for her father had such an avartion⁵⁰⁴ to that famally he wo[ul]d never have consented to it. But I think it was very wrang not to pubblish her marri[a]ge, and being with child as so[o]ne as her father deyed. Insteed of that, last Tu[e]sday a man and woman midwife was stoll⁵⁰⁵ in to the house. The man was sent for when the woman co[ul]d not deliver her. She was deliv[e]red of a deed child and deyed 2 hours affter and is this day to be burryed in a publick manner, the bill given out [to] Mrs Sarah Hore. Much is sayd upon the occasion. I doe beli[e]ve she was marryed, but they married very foollshly. She is gon[e] and I shall say noe more.

I have bought the 2 gowns you desired, 17 yards a piss which is 2 yards more then I put in mine. The wan is the same sort I sent you, the other a change[a]ble Ierish poplin, for they make non[e] of the sort in any thing but grays. Its very strang[e] that the p[e]opell in England sho[ul]d be soe fond of Ierish things when hear they all run affter English poplins to a degree of madness. I have bought them but I had no notion as yet how to get them sent. I have wrot[e] too much soe most have done when I tell you I am glad you have got your bill. All fri[e]nds well. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

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215. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 JANUARY 1741[/42]

By 7 packets that came in yesterday and this, I had tow letters from my dear sisters, the forst the 11th, the last 28[th], to both [of] which I shall give a[n] answer to both [*sic*]. Your forst gives me the account of your wrist which I am sor[r]y for, for I know full well [how] it is. My n[e]ighbor the Bushop of Meath⁵⁰⁶ had just [the] same sort of accident last September, not quit[e] well yet. My neics Conyngham writ[e]s that the col[one]l⁵⁰⁷ and she is on fri[e]ndly tearms and she thinks its as much [due to] her fri[e]nds as his manigers. As to Mrs Burtons⁵⁰⁸ delaying sending for the boys,⁵⁰⁹ it was in hopes you had got them before.

I hope you have got the stoffs⁵¹⁰ and they ear licked. They have bine at Mr Hores

⁵⁰¹ *Lege* share.

⁵⁰² Thomas (1729–66) and Edward Newenham (1734–1814), only surviving children of William Newenham (d. 1738) and his wife Dorothy (*née* Worth) (d. 1734).

⁵⁰³ Sarah Hoare (*née* Worth) (1704–41), daughter of Edward (1672–1741) and Dorothy Worth (*née* Whitfield) (d. 1732), married Edward Worth (d. 1741).

⁵⁰⁴ *Lege* aversion.

⁵⁰⁵ *Lege* stole.

⁵⁰⁶ Arthur Price (1679/80–1752): see letter no. 139, note 326, and *DIB*.

⁵⁰⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁰⁸ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁵⁰⁹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵¹⁰ *Lege* stuffs, dresses: see letter no. 214.

above a month for I got a [?] to car[r]y them [and] to l[e]ave them at Mr Conollys,⁵¹¹ and he wrot[e] to me he had sent them that day to Mr Hores. The mon[e]y I lay[ed] out was 3 po[un]d odd Ierish mon[e]y, but as [for] charging with it in my nixt draft on Mr Nisbet for you, I will not doe it. Soe you may get the mon[e]y for your selfe. The red was 18 penc[e]s a yard, the other 2 shil[l]in[g]s, and better stoffs in London as ch[e]ape.

I am glad to hear my jacklet is re[a]dy. I wish it wear sent a way for I am ne[a]r out. In my nixt I'll send you a bill for your self and when I know what the jacklet comes too I'll send a bill for that. I was never soe poor at Mr Nisbet senas ever I had mon[e]y there, for as your ni[e]ces⁵¹² is tall and towards a woman she is very expins[e]ve to me now every day. She is neer as tall as her mother but much han[d]samer and really a good girill. Very dutyfull and much liked by all that knows her. She is very sivell and humble.

Sister Jones will writ[e] to you so[o]ne. All your fri[e]nds well and much yours as is my dear sister your ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly. Pray haston the jacklet.

NLI, MS 41,578/15

216. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 FEBRUARY 1741[/42]

I thought to have wrot[e] to my dear sister before this but we have had such bad we[a]ther that noe packet can goe out nor come in, 50 packets now dew and all the bills not come. I gave my sister Jones⁵¹³ a frank sences I wrot[e] to you.

I have a sore finger that makes writing une[a]sey to me. The sore finger [ms damaged] right hand by a rumictik p[a]ine, a vine⁵¹⁴ is [twisted?], some times a day, sometimes not. I can work better than writ[e]. I long to know how your wrist is. I sho[ul]d not writ[e] now but to send you a bill [for] 35 p[oun]d. All your fri[e]nds hear ear well and remembers you often.

I long to hear my jacklet is left London for I am neer out. When I know what it comes too I will send you a bill for it, but I am poorer now in England then I ever was – my girill⁵¹⁵ is growan very expencive to me but she deserves it. I am my dear sisters ever affect[ionate], Ka Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/15

217. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 FEBRUARY 1741[/42]

Last packet I had my dear sisters of the 15[th], it was a short wan and [I] beli[e]ve this will not be much longer. I am sor[r]y you have got your ugly⁵¹⁶ cough. Such severe wither⁵¹⁷ I have not seen as we have had of leat; very, very cold we[a]ther with

⁵¹¹ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵¹² Alice Burton (1728–45), daughter of Mary (Missy) Burton (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737).

⁵¹³ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁵¹⁴ *Lege* vein.

⁵¹⁵ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵¹⁶ *Lege* ugly.

⁵¹⁷ *Lege* weather.

last Monday the greatest snow I ever saw for 16 hours, it never sessed.⁵¹⁸ Then for 2 days a sharp frost, now fine clire⁵¹⁹ we[a]ther these 2 days. Soe much for we[a]ther.

I have a sore finger which makes writing a littell ugly. The fore finger of my right hand, but I beli[e]ve its rumitissan, swell[le]d and red, but not very sore.

I long to hear what and which way poor nices Conynghams affear stands with her brother C[onyngham]⁵²⁰ – cruall, cruall, usage – let me know if you doe. I had a letter from her some time agoe. She sayd when all affears wear settled, I sho[ul]d hear from her, which letter I long for. If you writ[e] to her tell her the re[a]sons I have not wrot[e] to her.

I had a letter from Mrs Kinna⁵²¹ that my jackalet was put a boord a Dublin ship as the wind is now fear.⁵²² I hope I shall have it so[o]ne tho[ugh] I am not out yet. All cousen Curry's⁵²³ famally ear well and send complim[en]ts to you, with your nices⁵²⁴ is duty. Sister Jones is well and sends her sarvices. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/15

218. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 25 MARCH 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 16[th] and am much tr[o]ubled to hear you ear and have bine soe very ill. I beli[e]ve few p[e]opell can say much of good health at this time, for soe many favers⁵²⁵ and coughs was niver known. What has done me good when I had a cough was parmacty and shouger candy in fine pouder.⁵²⁶ I keept it in a littell box and licked a littell of it 20 times a day – but my sarv[an]ts wear all cured by hon[e]y and flower of sullpher⁵²⁷ – and every night a good drought of our old North contery medi[ca]tion called a wan graces.⁵²⁸ I know writing most be une[a]sey to you, indeed it grows soe to me, soe tho[ugh] I shall be allways glad to hear from you, doe not writ[e] but when its e[a]sey to you.

We have had no r[a]ine hear for neer a month. Very hot son, but cru[e]ll sharp winds, every thing burnt up.

⁵¹⁸ *Lege* ceased.

⁵¹⁹ *Lege* clear.

⁵²⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–1781).

⁵²¹ Unidentified, but probably a merchant in London.

⁵²² *Lege* fair.

⁵²³ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole. Her family were Martha (Matty) Leslie-Corry (1704/05–c. 1764); Sarah (Sally) (b. 1709/79) Lowrey; Mary (Molly) Armar (1710–1774) and Elizabeth (Betty) Hamilton (1715–1791).

⁵²⁴ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵²⁵ *Lege* fevers.

⁵²⁶ Meaning rock candy or sugar crystals powder, one of the oldest and purest forms of crystalline candy. It was used by pharmacists to make medicines.

⁵²⁷ *Lege* flower of sulphur.

⁵²⁸ Context unclear though transcribed correctly.

I am sor[r]y poor nices C[onyngam] has not yet settled with her brother,⁵²⁹ I pity her much. I sent to cousen Nisbet⁵³⁰ about what you writ. He says he spoke to Mr Matthews⁵³¹ and told him the col[one]l⁵³² wo[ul]d wa[i]ve his privy[li]dg[e] about your sute,⁵³³ but Matthews says except he has it under the col[one]l's hand, he nather can nor will proseed, and this he swears too. But Nisbet tells me that the tearm affter the nixt privilidge will be out, soe writ[e] to press him then to goe one if you can not get the col[one]l to give it [then]? This is all I can say for I never see Matthews. Opon my word Mr Nisbet is much consarned for you.

Sister Jones very well as is all your fri[e]nds. All cousen Currys⁵³⁴ and Mr Armers⁵³⁵ famally l[e]aves town nixt. I shall add no more but I am dear sister ever affectionate,
K: C:

[PS] Inclose for me to John Potter Esq[ui]r[e] at the Secetereys offices at the Castell of Dublin.⁵³⁶

NLI, MS 41,578/15

219. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 5 JUNE 1742

I have littell to say to my dear sister [but] that I have bine lazey and have had a great cough for a fortnight past. Its now better and as we have fine we[a]ther, I hope it will soon go off. I was afread it wo[ul]d turn to the chin cough, for all the children in town and co[u]ntery [and] Master⁵³⁷ at Layslip has bine very bad. [He] is now much better but most prodigously thin, poor fellow. He has not much flesh to spear⁵³⁸ but very full of spirits.

I had a letter yesterday from nices Conyngam, but [*sic*] tell me she has bine ill. It was deated the 25[th] of May from Chis[w]ick⁵³⁹ or Crisick but doth not tell me how to direct [letters to her], but sayd she wo[ul]d writ[e] to you nixt post. I sopose the Burtens⁵⁴⁰ is with you? There sister⁵⁴¹ had a letter from her father last post. He was then going to Ase-le-Chapell⁵⁴² to drink those watters for a fortnight, so to

⁵²⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngam (1707–81).

⁵³⁰ Thomas Nesbitt, a member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal: NLI, MS 41,580/34.

⁵³¹ Edward Mathews, lawyer.

⁵³² Henry (Harry) Conyngam (1707–81).

⁵³³ *Lege* suit.

⁵³⁴ The family of Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie): see letter no. 217, note 523.

⁵³⁵ William Armar, archdeacon of Connor, married Rebecca Corry, sister of Col John Corry (1667–1726) of Castlecoole. Mary (Molly) Corry, daughter of Col John and Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie), married Col Margetson Armar (1700–1773), son of Archdeacon Armar in 1736. Thus he was Col Corry's son-in-law and direct nephew.

⁵³⁶ John Potter, under-secretary: see letter no. 206, note 421.

⁵³⁷ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁵³⁸ *Lege* spare.

⁵³⁹ Chiswick, London, England.

⁵⁴⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁵⁴¹ Alice Burton (1728–45), daughter of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁴² The spa town of Aix-la-Chapelle, France.

Brussels and then to London, so fare⁵⁴³ homewards. His mother⁵⁴⁴ has bine in a dangerous way. They feared a mortification in her lege⁵⁴⁵ but that is over and she [is] recovering very fast.

Sister Jones will writ[e] in this and give you an account of her fri[e]nds at Dollanstown. In the seall of this you will find half a g[u]iney for the boys which if they be left, you send it to them, I did intend it last post. I am as usuall in a hurry soe most conclude when I tell my dear sister I am her ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/15

230. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 15 JUNE 1742

A Sunday night I had my dear sister giveing me the mallancolly account of your being soe ill, which I as[s]ure you gri[e]ves me to the heart. I by the same post [had] a letter from Mr Smith to his brother Clark⁵⁴⁶ giveing the same bad account. He sayd in his he wo[ul]d writ[e] the nixt post, but as a packet came in yesterday and I had no letter from any won about you, soe [I] sent to Dublin emedatly⁵⁴⁷ to know if Mr Clark had any, but he had noe letter. Soe, I am still between hopes and fears about you. I pray God send me a better account of you nixt packets. Sister Jones wishes the same. I will add no more but my best wishes and prayers attends you. I am my dear sist[e]rs ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/15

221. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 JUNE 1742

I had my dear sisters last Sunday. I am in great tr[o]uble least that fflurry your nephew⁵⁴⁸ gave you, and your soe much [under the weather?], sho[ul]d have any ill effect on you and soe little to places⁵⁴⁹ or give you any sattisfacton. He is a most unaccountable man, and allways has had the misfortune[e] to be governed by flatter[er]s and coning⁵⁵⁰ desinging⁵⁵¹ p[er]opell that will allways lead him wrang. I think I never h[e]ard soe beass⁵⁵² – for so I most call it – a propossell made, but I doe not beli[e]ve there is soe coveitoss⁵⁵³ a cr[e]ature liveing as the Col[one]l [Conyngham]; I never h[e]ard of his doeing a genero[u]s action.

⁵⁴³ *Lege* fair.

⁵⁴⁴ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁵⁴⁵ *Lege* leg.

⁵⁴⁶ Possibly referring to Darby Clarke, a London friend of Jane Bonnell (*née* Conyngham) (c. 1670–1745): see letters nos 120 and 202, and also no. 90.

⁵⁴⁷ *Lege* immediately.

⁵⁴⁸ Relating to the dispute between Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁴⁹ *Lege* please.

⁵⁵⁰ *Lege* cunning.

⁵⁵¹ *Lege* designing.

⁵⁵² *Lege* base.

⁵⁵³ *Lege* covetuous.

I think myself much obliged to that good n[e]ighbour of yours⁵⁵⁴ that has bine soe kind and car[e]full of you in your illness. If I thought wan of our Jerish stoffs⁵⁵⁵ wo[ul]d be exceptble⁵⁵⁶ to her I wo[ul]d send wan by the forst op[p]ertunaty, if I knew what couller⁵⁵⁷ she wo[ul]d lick best. Pray my sarvices to her.

Did you get the half g[u]in[e]y that was with in the seall of wan of my letters for the tow boys?⁵⁵⁸ I am glad to hear they ear well, God bless them. There grandmother⁵⁵⁹ I beli[e]ve will not recover. I will send Misy⁵⁶⁰ to Dublin to morrow or nixt day to see her. I wish her son⁵⁶¹ wear come home, she is impatiant⁵⁶² to see him. I have wrot[e] soe to him 3 or 4 times.

Sister Jones and your niess⁵⁶³ is sarvices and duty attends you. God send me good news from you which will be joy to your affectionate sister, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/15

222. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 JUNE 1742

Tho[ugh] I wrot[e] to my dear sister but 2 days agoe I most writ[e] again to tell you I had the inclosed senas I wrot[e]. I sent wan [person] with it yesterday to consult some of my fri[e]nds that knows your affears very well, and as the [copies?] of some of your papers can not be got, and that it may be a state that may last for meny years both to you and your ex[ecu]t[e]rs, they all think it wo[ul]d be your best way to closs⁵⁶⁴ with the col[one]l⁵⁶⁵ in the best manner you can. If he [*sic*] [it] means your nephew⁵⁶⁶ had done han[d]samly with you, I told you long agoe I wo[ul]d then withdraw my little quar[terly] allowances I send you, but if you agree to Mr Richisons⁵⁶⁷ propossall you shall have it as long as I live. I can but advise you in this affear, you ear the best judge in this, but wear it my case I would doe the same. I now mention [it] for the messiges I had last night wear [that if] you [wear] there mother or sister they wo[ul]d advise you to it, and this they confirmed with an outh,⁵⁶⁸ and it is wan that knows all my dear brother's⁵⁶⁹ affears and says he was allways affread⁵⁷⁰ that tho[ugh] noe man was more car[e]full in bissness then he,

⁵⁵⁴ Mrs Bruce, a friend and neighbour of Jane Bonnell's in London.

⁵⁵⁵ Meaning Irish linen.

⁵⁵⁶ *Lege* acceptable.

⁵⁵⁷ *Lege* colour.

⁵⁵⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96): see letter no. 219.

⁵⁵⁹ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁵⁶⁰ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵⁶¹ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁵⁶² *Lege* impatient.

⁵⁶³ *Lege* niece, Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁵⁶⁴ *Lege* close.

⁵⁶⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁶⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁶⁷ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no 43, note 500.

⁵⁶⁸ *Lege* oath.

⁵⁶⁹ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707).

⁵⁷⁰ *Lege* afraid.

there was some mistake [made] in [it] by his law[y]ers. But I have wrot[e] to Mr Richison fully on this matter and tell him pla[i]nly I think the col[one]l's proposall much too littell. I have told you my opponnon soe shall say no more, but prays God to derect you for the best, and am my dear sister ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Say something about the collour of the Ierish stoff.⁵⁷¹

NLI, MS 41,578/15

223. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 JULY 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 23[rd] and 25[th] of June. I wrot[e] to you the 22[nd] and 24[th] and sent you Mr Richisons⁵⁷² letter in my last and was resolved to writ[e] no more till I h[e]ard from you, as I sent you Mr Richisons letter to me and sho[ul]d be glad you wear made e[a]sey, but I find law most⁵⁷³ end it. God send it may be to your wish and mine. I made sister Jones writ[e] to Ned Matthews⁵⁷⁴ and I beli[e]ve she will writ[e] to you opon it. God derect you for the best as to the col[one]l.⁵⁷⁵ I never hear from him, nor had noe letter from him senas last May. Mr Matthews says he will goe on now that privildg⁵⁷⁶ is out, but soe is tarme⁵⁷⁷ till November nixt. Mr Matthews says your demands is 4000 po[u]nd. He [Matthews] is rec[k]oned a very indolant man and lezey. I hear but littell of him and he visits no body. I have sent offten to him on your account but has not seen him these 3 years.

I will add no more till I hear from you. I goe this day to Dublin for a wick and sister Jones goes to her sons,⁵⁷⁸ much against my will, but if she will not come back to me I shall quarill⁵⁷⁹ with her which I was not willing [to] doe, but I hope she will. I shall goe for her. I am my dear sister your affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] This is the letter you [thought?] was lost.

NLI, MS 41,578/15

224. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 9 JULY 1742

I came to town yesterday and wrot[e] to you and some other letters but my sarvant drop[p]ed them in the street. He says they were picked out of his pocket soe that I am obliged to writ[e] all my letters over again which is a great tr[o]uble to me.

⁵⁷¹ See letter no. 221.

⁵⁷² John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁵⁷³ *Lege* must.

⁵⁷⁴ Edward Matthews, lawyer.

⁵⁷⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁷⁶ *Lege*, parliamentary privilege.

⁵⁷⁷ *Lege* term.

⁵⁷⁸ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁵⁷⁹ *Lege* quarrel.

I told you in my last that sister Jones had wrot[e] to Mr Ned Mathew⁵⁸⁰ about your affear. His answer was he wa[i]ted for Mr Normonds son⁵⁸¹ to come to town with his father's answeare about Newtown Limavady estate. I nor she co[ul]d not immagin how that estate co[ul]d have any thing to doe in your deet.⁵⁸² I am told it was some thing in nices Conynghams answers some time a goe that accasions this new delay. I doe not in the least understand it. I shall send for Mr Mathew as I have often done, but I doe not expect to see him. I told you I wished you wear e[a]sey for I see no end of your tr[o]ubles in this perplexed affear but you ear the best judge. Mr Matthews seems in his letter to be prity sanguin[e]. I sent you Mr Richisons⁵⁸³ letter and just now I had yours of the 1st of Jully, I find you had mine. And then I had advise from some fri[e]nds which I sent to consult [with], and they advised me as I wrot[e] to you when I sent you Mr Richisons letter, but still I say you ear the best judge. God derect you for the best for I nather can nor will advise you.

Just now I had a letter from Col[one]l Conyngham⁵⁸⁴ what consarns you. I send you a copy off [it]. The rest is a mallancolly story of his great want of mon[e]y and as I am very rich he desir[e]s I wo[ul]d emedetly⁵⁸⁵ draw a bill for a thousand po[u]nd from Mr Henry⁵⁸⁶ to Mr Nisbet, and he will pay out of his wife's⁵⁸⁷ fortune which is the forst time I ever h[e]ard of it, but [he] doth not say to whom nor what fortune, which I take to be all a sham story. But in case he sho[ul]d dey⁵⁸⁸ be[fore] [he marries?] he should send me a bond and secure it on his estate and soe kind he is [that] he wo[ul]d l[e]ave me the estate affter – (a fine sugar plum to catch children). I shall writ[e] to him so[o]ne, and I can with truth and upon honner and every thing thats dear to an honnest mind tell him if I draw such a bill I most borrow the half of the same, for I have not this day in the world 400 and sixty po[u]nds in Mr Henrys hands. I have more then what he desi[re]s in my tennets hands if I co[ul]d get it, but cannot doe a cruell thing nor ever did my dear Mr Conolly⁵⁸⁹ to any of his tennets. I have a great fortune its true, more then I ever expected, but the more wan has the more is expected from them and I have more demands then I can possobly answeare.

⁵⁸⁰ Edward Matthews, lawyer.

⁵⁸¹ Unidentified; possibly a land agent acting in relation to Jane Bonnell's disputed claim on the Donegal estate.

⁵⁸² *Lege* debt.

⁵⁸³ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁵⁸⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁸⁵ *Lege* immediately.

⁵⁸⁶ Hugh Henry (d. 1743), a member of the Presbyterian gentry, elected MP for Newtown Limavady in 1713 and for Antrim in 1715. He was the son of Rev. Robert Henry (d. 1699), Presbyterian minister for Carrickfergus and later for Capel Street, Dublin. Hugh Henry, Ephraim Dawson and William Lenox established the banking business *Hugh Henry and Company* circa 1710. Following the collapse of Burton's Bank in 1733 *Hugh Henry and Company* became the sole government money-exchanger. The banking partnership was dissolved in 1737. Henry married Anne Leeson, a sister of Joseph Leeson, 1st earl of Milltown in 1717 and resided at Lodge Park, Straffan, Co. Kildare: Robert Whan, *The Presbyterians of Ulster, 1680–1730* (Woodbridge, 2013), p. 67.

⁵⁸⁷ It is possible Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) was at this point negotiating a marriage settlement with Ellen Merrett (1718–1816) whom he married in 1744.

⁵⁸⁸ *Lege* die.

⁵⁸⁹ William Conolly (1662–1729).

Sister Jones wo[ul]d not come with me to town. Went the day I cam[e] to her sons⁵⁹⁰ but I told her if she wo[ul]d not come back to me so[o]ne I wo[ul]d not forgive her, and I am in good e[a]rnest.

As to a piss of Ierish linnin, I shall buy it. I brought half a piss to town to send you – 10 yards – 2 aprons for you and 2 for your fri[e]nd, but senes⁵⁹¹ you wo[ul]d have a piss, I sho[ul]d be glad to.

NLI, MS 41,578/15

225. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 JULY 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 10th [in] last Sunday's packets. As I had before a letter from Col[one]l Conyngham⁵⁹² wher in he says much of your refusing his proposal, which he says he is sure is more then the law will give you, and desir[es] me to writ[e] to you. Soe this and much to this purposse he says. I beli[e]ve when I was in Dublin I wrot[e] this to you but as I had not my list of letters with me, I forgot it, but I think I wrot[e] to you from Dublin about it.

I am sor[r]y you have any case to fear a return of your faver.⁵⁹³ Cousin Hary Leslie and his lady⁵⁹⁴ and some other fri[e]n[d]s dined hear yesterday. She is a very prity aggr[ee]able woman. He sayd he wo[ul]d writ[e] to you what Mr Matthews⁵⁹⁵ says. He wo[ul]d wish the Col[one]l [Conyngham] wo[ul]d dubbell his propossall that you might have paces⁵⁹⁶ and quiet and he sayd he had told you soe. I heart[i]ly wish it wear ended to your satisfaction, but some of your fri[e]nds hear that I have discoursed [with] fully on that heed, wishes for your sack⁵⁹⁷ it wear ended, [but] for the want of some papers which is lost or mislayd, which the col[one]l knows full well (for he is a great la[w]yer). I have wrot[e] my mind fully to him this day, and in a pertickler manner as to what is sayd or hinted of my dear brother⁵⁹⁸ and my dear Mr Conolly,⁵⁹⁹ and told him but for my dear husband he might be glad he had [the] Slean esteat⁶⁰⁰ left, for when the wholl[e] Boylough and Bannaugh esteat⁶⁰¹ was attached (and I am sure his unkell for 2 months never had wan quiet minnet day or night) and his settelling his Newtown esteat was the consequence of his mothers

⁵⁹⁰ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁵⁹¹ *Lege* since.

⁵⁹² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁹³ *Lege* fever.

⁵⁹⁴ Possibly referring to Henry Leslie of Markethill, Armagh, and his wife [unknown] (d. c. 1765).

⁵⁹⁵ Edward Matthews, lawyer.

⁵⁹⁶ *Lege* peace.

⁵⁹⁷ *Lege* sake.

⁵⁹⁸ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707).

⁵⁹⁹ Katherine's husband William Conolly (1662–1729).

⁶⁰⁰ Conyngham Hall, later called Slane Castle, Co. Meath, the home of Williams Conyngham (1705–38) and later Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81): see introduction, note 93.

⁶⁰¹ Boylough and Bannagh were two Conyngham estates in Co. Donegal. They were brought into the Conyngham family through the marriage of Marian Murray, daughter of John Murray of Broughton, Scotland, to Alexander Conyngham (c. 1580–1660), Katherine's grandfather.

set[te]lling her English estate on her children.⁶⁰² What return he has made for all this he best knows. I made no proposall of any sort to him soe God direct you for the best.

When I was in Dublin I bought a piss of Ierish linnin as you desired and sent it a way by Col[one]l Boolls⁶⁰³ that went off that day, and derected it for you at Mr Hores in Fleet-Street and gave the col[one]ls sarvant to take care of it, soe inquire about it. I hope it will prove good. There is 25 yards. You may take off ten yards for your self and the other 15 will be as much as I beli[e]ve Mrs Bruce⁶⁰⁴ will want of that sort, but doe as you plaas. I wrot[e] to you to know what prise⁶⁰⁵ she wo[ul]d lick,⁶⁰⁶ but haveing an opertunaty [I] wo[ul]d not weat for your answeere. The piss cost me 7 po[u]nd. It's a good cloth but I think not ch[e]ap, but I bought it from a clargymans wodow,⁶⁰⁷ left poor with 8 childrin, a daughter of John Dunlaveys⁶⁰⁸ you may remember.

I had the inclosed by this days packet which I inclose to you. I shall writ[e] a short letter to Richison⁶⁰⁹ tho[ugh] I am quit[e] tyred. Sister Jones is at her sons.⁶¹⁰ I pray God derect you and send you health is the sencerr⁶¹¹ wish of my dear sister, affect[ionately], Ka: Conolly

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226. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 3 AUGUST 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 19[th] of Jully last wick but co[ul]d not answer it till this day. The we[a]ther is soe hot I can doe nothing, for hot we[a]ther never aggrees with me. As to the linnin, ten yard I wanst mention[e] [I would] to send you. I co[ul]d not doe it then not haveing it in Dublin, but as I bought a fine piss when I was in Dublin and got an op[p]ertunety of sending it by Gen[e]r[al]l Boulls⁶¹² I thought that piss might sarve you and your fri[e]nd Mrs Bruss.⁶¹³ And in my letter I then

⁶⁰² Mary Williams, Lady Shelburne (1672–1710), daughter of Sir John Williams of Carmarthenshire, inherited an estate in Wales and in Isle of Thanet, Kent. She married Katherine's brother, Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707). Following the death of Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707) and Mrs Conyngham's marriage to Col Dalaway, William Conolly (1662–1729) acted as legal guardian to the Conyngham children, Williams (1698–1738), Henry (Harry) (1707–81) and Mary (Missey) (d. 1737). William's transactions on their behalf saw him, and later his widow Katherine, gain legal possession of some of these estates which subsequently led to the protracted disputes and ill feeling between Katherine and her nephews.

⁶⁰³ Unidentified.

⁶⁰⁴ Mrs Bruce, a friend and neighbour of Jane Bonnell's in London: see letter no. 222.

⁶⁰⁵ *Lege* price.

⁶⁰⁶ *Lege* like.

⁶⁰⁷ Unidentified.

⁶⁰⁸ Unidentified; however an unnamed sister of William Conolly's (1662–1729) married John Dunlevie.

⁶⁰⁹ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁶¹⁰ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁶¹¹ *Lege* sincere.

⁶¹² Unidentified: see letter no. 225.

⁶¹³ Mrs Bruce, a friend and neighbour of Jane Bonnell's in London: see letter no. 222.

wrot[e] to desire you to take ten yards to your self and let her have the 15 or 16, I for get which. Soe I need say no more about it nor of the col[one]⁶¹⁴ nor his fri[e]nd R[ichardson].⁶¹⁵

Sister Jones is well, her son⁶¹⁶ in the gout. I dine there nixt Thursday. I expect Mr Conolly⁶¹⁷ to morrow if the wind be fear.⁶¹⁸ I wrote sharply to your fri[e]nd Richison why he or any body sho[ul]d tr[o]uble Mr Conolly or any body eles about yours and the col[one]’s affears.

Old Mrs Burton⁶¹⁹ is recovering. I believe her son⁶²⁰ will be in London by the latter end of this month, its full time he sho[ul]d come home. All fri[e]nd[s] is well. I am not quit[e] soe poor as not to send your poor allowances, for I am sure he⁶²¹ has that much of mine still in his hands, and about September I expect my tennents will pay him my rent. Its dew in June but the p[e]opell in Wills⁶²² sends up the cattell to London about that time and then my rent is [paid]. If it was not the expences Miss Burton⁶²³ puts me too this last year for close and some jewells⁶²⁴ I co[ul]d not want mon[e]y there. Inclosed is a bill for thurty po[un]ds. I am sencerey yours, K: C:

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227. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 AUGUST 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 29[th] of July with dear Franks⁶²⁵ inclosed. I will not writ[e] to him but doe you send them word that I thank him for his prity letter and I know its tr[o]ublesome for small boys to get time to writ[e]. I am glad to hear there father⁶²⁶ is landed. Tell them there sister⁶²⁷ is well and gives her sarvices kindly to them. There grandmother⁶²⁸ is better, but I doe not beli[e]ve will ever be quit[e] well. She has suffer[e]d more then wo[ul]d kill 20 p[e]opell, she is able to take the ear⁶²⁹ some time. As to the col[one]’s⁶³⁰ proposal, he is in every thing he takes in heed as ever his mother was. I have nather h[e]ard from him nor his fri[e]nd senas I wrot[e] to you and trully I doe not desire to be tr[o]ubled with such corospondons.⁶³¹

⁶¹⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁶¹⁵ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁶¹⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747).

⁶¹⁷ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶¹⁸ *Lege* fair.

⁶¹⁹ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁶²⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶²¹ Gould & Nesbit, London.

⁶²² *Lege* Wales.

⁶²³ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶²⁴ *Lege* clothes, jewels, in preparation for Alice Burton’s (1728–45) presentation ‘at court’ in Dublin Castle.

⁶²⁵ Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87).

⁶²⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶²⁷ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶²⁸ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁶²⁹ *Lege* air.

⁶³⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁶³¹ *Lege* correspondence.

I was last Satterday at Dollanstown, they ear all well. The childrin⁶³² has still the remeans of their chincough⁶³³ but very sli[gh]t. I made both father and children some small presents, which I was glad was soe exceptable.

Mr Conolly⁶³⁴ is not come, I expect him about Thursday nixt. Our bear and wheat harvist is all down in this co[u]ntery and a good deall of o[a]tes never knowen soe e[a]rly as this year. Very fine we[a]ther as ever was knowen. Its too hot for me, but no grass or hay with me. I most buy my hay which is very hard on me that has soe much land in my one⁶³⁵ hand. We had in the doge⁶³⁶ days a wick of cold we[a]ther but senas that very hot. I have not had a fire in my bed chamber, dressing room, nor closit yet this summer, nor doe I let Miss Burton, tho[ugh] she wo[ul]d be glad of it.

You sho[ul]d inquire about the piss of linnin for I am sure it has bine in London this month or 3 wicks. My sister Jones says she will come hear nixt wick. I shall add noe more but I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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228. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 21 SEPTEMBER 1742

I had my dear sister of the 10th and a very sivell wan from Mrs Bruce.⁶³⁷ I am sure her care and fri[e]ndship to you desarves all the sarvices any of your fri[e]nds can show her. I wo[ul]d ansvere her obliging letter but at present I cannot, for las[t] Sunday I got a fall down 7 steps of stayers, it has a little discomposd me. A sarvant had me by the arme, I fell with my heed⁶³⁸ down and soe fell to save my heed from the flages.⁶³⁹ I thank my God I got noe great harm but bru[i]sed my toes of both feet. They ear black and my feet swelled, but that is gone off. It was a great marcy⁶⁴⁰ I did not brack⁶⁴¹ some of my boons,⁶⁴² but Gods marcy is great to me. Be in no consarn for I as[s]ure you I am very well.

I am glad you liked the linnen. There is an act of parl[ia]m[en]t⁶⁴³ now made that toke plaas last March that all linnen sho[ul]d be made full yard or elas⁶⁴⁴ forfit[t]ed.

You most take up with a short letter for senas I begane this there is some ladys come. My girills⁶⁴⁵ cough is better. All fri[e]nds well. I am with my sarvis to good Mrs Bruce, my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

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⁶³² Richard Jones (1735–90) and Kitty Jones (b. 1740), the children of Roger (d. 1747) and Elenor Jones.

⁶³³ Whooping-cough.

⁶³⁴ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶³⁵ *Lege* own.

⁶³⁶ *Lege* dog, the sultry part of the summer, supposed to occur during the period that Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the sun, now often reckoned from 3 July to 11 August.

⁶³⁷ Mrs Bruce, a friend and neighbour of Jane Bonnell's in London: see letter no. 222.

⁶³⁸ *Lege* head.

⁶³⁹ *Lege* flagstones.

⁶⁴⁰ *Lege* mercy.

⁶⁴¹ *Lege* break.

⁶⁴² *Lege* bones.

⁶⁴³ *Act for the further improvement of the bempen and flaxen manufacture of this kingdom*, 13 George II chap II.

⁶⁴⁴ *Lege* else.

⁶⁴⁵ Alice Burton (1728–45).

229. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 13 OCTOBER 1742

I had my dear sisters of the 30[th] of September [that] came last Sunday with 5 packets that came together. I did long to hear from you and am glad I did not hear when you had a return of your ague which I hope is quit[e] gone off.

I can now tell you that I have bine much out of order senas my fall for, as I was much winded by it and did not sture⁶⁴⁶ for the bru[i]ses in my fe[e]t and too[e]s, it has bine ugley to me. I have doctor Nisbet⁶⁴⁷ [staying] this month hear for my girill⁶⁴⁸ has bine ill with a cough for above 10 wicks. She had renewed⁶⁴⁹ her cold and for 6 or 7 days and nights she sweet⁶⁵⁰ without intermission. He says it was a most ha[p]py thing as co[ul]d hap[p]an, for it gave he says a turn to all the simptoms of a dangerous favear. She is now I thank God very well, only some littell remeans of her ougly hard cough.

You inquired if his⁶⁵¹ father and mother was deed. She is some years agoe; he has made some provision for all his famallly. He lived quit[e] a lone in Boylough⁶⁵² [and] invited [a] releation of his one⁶⁵³ to come and live with him to take care of him and his house. A widow – a daughter of old Killmacrodon⁶⁵⁴ – and after liveing 2 or 3 years [in the house] he mar[r]yed her 2 or 3 years ago, for most of his childrin slited⁶⁵⁵ him after. He had given them all he had, but the income of his parish did well for them, more then can be expected. She is old but a very good woman they say and carefull of him. Now I have given you a long account of an old acqu[a]i[nta]nc[e].

Sister Jones is hear and well. She gives her sarvices to you and I wo[ul]d have had her to writ[e] today but she is very lasey.⁶⁵⁶ I can add noe more but that I am my dear sister ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Your nices⁶⁵⁷ is duty. My sarvices to nices Conyngham when you writ[e] to her.

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230. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 30 OCTOBER 1742

I know my dear sister is [damaged] hearing of my illness which makes me writ[e] now tho[ugh] sister Jones wrot[e] leatly to you. I am I thank God better and that

⁶⁴⁶ *Lege* stir.

⁶⁴⁷ Dr Ezekiel Nesbitt (1711/12–1798) entered on the Leyden Register in 1734 and admitted fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland (predecessor of RCPI) in 1745/6. He was the son of Rev. George Nesbitt of Mountcharles and Catherine Conyngham of Ballydavit, Co. Donegal, and was appointed physician to the Rotunda Hospital in 1759; RCPI.

⁶⁴⁸ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶⁴⁹ *Lege* renewed.

⁶⁵⁰ *Lege* sweated.

⁶⁵¹ Unidentified clergyman on the Boylough estate, Co. Donegal.

⁶⁵² Part of the Conyngham's Co. Donegal estates.

⁶⁵³ *Lege* own.

⁶⁵⁴ Unidentified, but probably one of the tenants of the Boylough estate.

⁶⁵⁵ *Lege* slighted.

⁶⁵⁶ *Lege* lazy.

⁶⁵⁷ *Lege* niece, Alice Burton (1728–45).

tr[o]ublesome disorder in my theyes begins to mend. It was what they call the Rose⁶⁵⁸ which I had in my legs 3 years agoe, but this is in soe tr[o]ublesome a part, for my night sit[t]ing on the sore parts keeps them much longer from mending then they wo[ul]d other ways be. I have at present got a cold but it is allsoe better and will be so[o]ne well I hope. Now I desire you will be e[a]sey about me for both doctor Graton⁶⁵⁹ [and] doctor Nisbet⁶⁶⁰ that stays hear constantly, and docter Graton that comes hear wanst or twist a wick, and Nickellson⁶⁶¹ the surg[e]on as[s]ures me and all my fri[e]nds there is not the least danger in my disorder but its being tr[o]ublesome for a little time. But if I had no disorder this is a time of year I co[ul]d not be well.

My one⁶⁶² disorder gives not half the tr[o]uble that my dear girills⁶⁶³ cold and cough doth, that which still continues but not neer soe bad as it was, and tho[ugh] she and every wan takes all the care possable, the least ear⁶⁶⁴ gives her a fresh cold. It makes me very une[a]sey about her. She eats well, sleeps well and [is] very chirfull. Soe trust in God she will be so[o]ne well.

We want packets, I'll writ[e] when they come. Remember my jacklet for there is not a day but 2 or 3 compeny comes from Dublin and 4, 5, or 6 cops⁶⁶⁵ will be dronk⁶⁶⁶ a morning. Be spake a 100[weight] and a half of which pray take 10 po[u]nd to your self. I will send you your one⁶⁶⁷ bill nixt wick and for the jackalet when I know what it comes too. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, K: C:

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231. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 NOVEMBER 1742

I wo[ul]d have wrot[e] so[o]nner to my dear sister but still in hopes of packets; 9 dew this day and no hopes of any. Poor Lady Ann Conolly has bine this month at Parkgeat with 3 childrin,⁶⁶⁸ and Mr Conolly⁶⁶⁹ the une[a]seyst man about them you

⁶⁵⁸ Unidentified, though the symptoms Katherine describes suggests an initial dermatological problem that then developed into an abcess on her thighs.

⁶⁵⁹ Dr James Grattan (d. 1747): see letter no. 102, note 563.

⁶⁶⁰ Dr Ezekiel Nesbitt (1711/12–1798): see letter no. 229, note 647.

⁶⁶¹ Dr Henry Nicholson (b. c. 1650) entered Trinity College Dublin in 1667 as a sizer aged 17. He was entered on the Leyden Register in 1709 and admitted as a candidate to the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland in 1711, the same year he married Mrs Sarah Baldwin in St Peter & Paul's church, Dublin: RCPI.

⁶⁶² *Lege* own.

⁶⁶³ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶⁶⁴ *Lege* air.

⁶⁶⁵ *Lege* cups.

⁶⁶⁶ *Lege* drunk.

⁶⁶⁷ *Lege* own.

⁶⁶⁸ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) who was waiting at Parkgate near Holyhead, Anglesey, the main port for embarkation to Ireland. There were five Conolly children alive at this point though all were not travelling with their mother. The children were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Lucy (b. 1740/41), Thomas (1737–1803) and Caroline (1741–1817) Conolly.

⁶⁶⁹ William Conolly (1706–54).

ever saw. She wo[ul]d have bine [here] over 2 months agoe but for a sore bre[a]st affter her leying-in. She was in a very bad way with it and is not I fear well yet, for I think she came a way too so[o]ne from the surgin. But [as] nather packets nor any Chester ships [have] come in, we know nothing about her.

[Manuscript damaged] now I hear the yacht⁶⁷⁰ is in the bea⁶⁷¹ and packets come in but as I doe not expect the packet till night I wo[ul]d not miss this post in writing to you and sending you a bill for 35 po[u]nd on Mr Nisbet for I fear you may want it. Give half a g[u]iney to the 2 Burtons,⁶⁷² [£]4–10 is for assis milk⁶⁷³ for your self which I hope you will take constantly senas it aggrass⁶⁷⁴ with you. My girill⁶⁷⁵ is still at assis milk, her cough not being quit[e] gone tho[ugh] much better, as I am I thank God, tho[ugh] my theyes is not quit[e] well. The flesh and skin very tender whear I sit keeps them soe.

Sister Jones is well and will writ[e] nixt time. I long for the packets in hopes to hear from you soe shall add no more but to as[s]ure you I am most affect[i]o[n]atly yours, Ka: Conolly

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232. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 DECEMBER 1742

I have 2 letters from my dear sister in 2 days at wan another, soe this most sarve for answer to both. I am glad the bill came safe and that you will drink assis milk⁶⁷⁶ and tho[ugh] it's a bad time of year, I hope you will get it. My girill⁶⁷⁷ drinks it twist a day; it has done her a great deall of good, tho[ugh] her cough is not quit[e] gone. She is vastly better and I doe not expect she will [be] quit[e] reed of it till warm we[a]ther comes in. She is full of spirits and eats and sleeps as well as ever. Her grandmother⁶⁷⁸ is quit[e] recov[e]red, abrood every day till 12 and won every night. She talks of comeing hear opon which I sent my girill last wick to Dublin to see her, and she got a little cold by it, for I sho[ul]d be sor[r]y to have her hear for fear she sho[ul]d fall ill hear.

I am better I thank God, but still my theyes continues sore, tho[ugh] nothing to what they wear. When any of the loss⁶⁷⁹ skin comes off the young skin is soe tender that they smart just like a born.⁶⁸⁰

Sister Jones sent to Ned Mathews⁶⁸¹ to know what was done or dowing in your bissness. His answeare was he had wrot[e] to you but this was by word of mouth, soe we

⁶⁷⁰ *Lege* yacht.

⁶⁷¹ *Lege* bay.

⁶⁷² Francis Pierpont Burton (1730–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁶⁷³ *Lege* asses milk: see letter no. 78, note 168.

⁶⁷⁴ *Lege* agrees.

⁶⁷⁵ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶⁷⁶ See letters nos 78 and 220.

⁶⁷⁷ Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁶⁷⁸ Alice Burton (*née* Tilson) (d. *post* 1765).

⁶⁷⁹ *Lege* loose.

⁶⁸⁰ *Lege* burn.

⁶⁸¹ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

know nothing [of] whats done. I long to hear what Col[one]l C[onyngham's]⁶⁸² new proposell is. As you writ[e] I think its nothing. Richison⁶⁸³ landed a month a goe, is gone to the north, but did not come hear. Sister Jones is very kind in staying with me hear.

I am in heast, wan [person is] just going to Dublin soe shall add no more but to as[s]ure my dear sister that I am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Heasten my jacklet.

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233. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 JANUARY 1742[/43]

I had my dear sisters of the 20[th] of December with 5 or 6 packets that came in last Satterday. I was very glad to hear from you and Mr Burton⁶⁸⁴ that the very hard frost had not made you worse then all well. It was very sevear hear and effect[ed] me much. I cannot say I mend much but both the doctors and surg[e]ons says it most be warm we[a]ther that will doe me good, soe I hope I shall submit with pations⁶⁸⁵ to what is now opon me. Its very une[a]sey, but I am [in] no way sick but as well as I have bine a gre[a]t while.

Mr Conolly, his lady and Miss Conolly⁶⁸⁶ (who is as fine a child and as devarting) has bine with me in my confin[e]m[en]t, which is very kind, above a fortnight. As to the jackalet, its of no great consequens⁶⁸⁷ senas you have to bespoke another 100[weight], out of which pray take 10 or 12 po[u]nd to your self, soe pray make noe mistake in it. I know Mrs Kinna⁶⁸⁸ will send it by the forst op[p]ertunaty.

Mr Burton never mentioned your affear in any letter to me tho[ugh] I did wanst to him. I am sor[r]y you think him in a bad steat of health, he is a good father and a very honnest man and I wish him extr[e]amly well. Sister Jones has bine soe good to stay hear with me ever senas last June, and my cousen Curry⁶⁸⁹ has bine hear this fortnight. Her daughter Matty is in a bad steat of health and Capt[ain] Curry⁶⁹⁰ has had the gout above 2 months, soe they ear both in a poor way. There boy⁶⁹¹ thrives now, very well but a prity little babby. My cousen Nisbet⁶⁹² was with me 5 or 6 wicks but went to Dublin before Xmas day. I fear her husband in a bad steat of health for

⁶⁸² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁶⁸³ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁶⁸⁴ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁶⁸⁵ *Lege* patience.

⁶⁸⁶ William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97) and their daughter Katherine (Kety) (1733–71).

⁶⁸⁷ *Lege* consequence.

⁶⁸⁸ Unidentified, probably a London merchant: see letter no. 217.

⁶⁸⁹ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie), of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁶⁹⁰ Martha (Matty) Leslie (*née* Corry) (1704/05–c. 1764) and her husband Capt Edmund Leslie (d. 1764).

⁶⁹¹ John Leslie-Corry (1741–3).

⁶⁹² Possibly Jane Hamilton (*née* Nesbitt), daughter of Rev. Geroge Nesbitt and Catherine Nesbitt (*née* Conyngham) of Ballydavitt and Woodhall, Co. Donegal. She married Archibald Hamilton of Ballyfatton, Co. Tyrone, c. 1719.

which I heartly gri[e]ve, for if anything sho[ul]d eall⁶⁹³ him he l[e]aves the most helpless wife and son⁶⁹⁴ behind him that I know. He has bine long in buss[i]ness but what fortune he has made I never h[e]ard. Tho[ugh] I say this, I doe not think him in any emedeat⁶⁹⁵ danger. Its fits of the strangery⁶⁹⁶ is his chi[e]fe disorder, and while they last he is in a miserable way.

I have made this letter much longer then I intended but as you compla[i]n of not hearing from us senas I wrot[e] the 10[th] November, sister Jones the wick affter the 22[nd] and December 9[th] and wan senas besid[e]s this, soe if you get them you have no ca[u]se to compla[i]ne. Soe fear⁶⁹⁷ you well. I can say noe more but that I am my dear sisters ever affect[ionate]. K. Conolly

[PS] Sister Jones, cousin Currys sarvics attends you and my girills duty. Pray my sarvis to your good fri[e]nds Mrs Bruce and her brother.⁶⁹⁸

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234. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 FEBRUARY 1742[43]

I am at least wan letter in dear sisters deet,⁶⁹⁹ for I have had soe much compeny I have not wrot[e] senas the 10[th] of Jen[uar]y. I answered yours of the 20th of December and told you the mistake about the jackalet was of no sort of consequanc[e]s only you had not got the 10 po[u]nd to your self. If I did not, I intended to have bid[d]en you [to] take twelve po[u]nd out of what you wear to send nixt to me which I hope you will doe.

I am glad you ear lick⁷⁰⁰ to get a milk ass. I trust in God it will doe you good. I hear my jackalet is come to my house in Dublin but I have not sent for it. We have a great many packets dew but [with] such stormy we[a]ther, we cannot expect them. I hope by them to hear from you.

As to Ned Mathews⁷⁰¹ neglecting your bissness, I beli[e]ve noe man that wanst had the carricter⁷⁰² of a man of bissness is growon soe car[e]less. He, as I hear, spends the most of his time in eating, drinking and cards. My sister Jones has wrot[e] to him and his sister severall times. All the answee she can get, and that by word of mouth by some body, he writ[e]s to you, and soe he need not to any body elas,⁷⁰³ or some times a more slit⁷⁰⁴ answee.

⁶⁹³ *Lege* ail.

⁶⁹⁴ William or George Hamilton of Ballyfatton, Co. Tyrone.

⁶⁹⁵ *Lege* immediate.

⁶⁹⁶ Stranguary: restricted urine flow, a difficulty passing urine attended with pain. This could have included bladder stones and enlargement of the prostate.

⁶⁹⁷ *Lege* fare.

⁶⁹⁸ Mrs Bruce: see letter no. 222, note 554. For her unidentified brother see letter no. 238 below.

⁶⁹⁹ *Lege* debt.

⁷⁰⁰ *Lege* likely.

⁷⁰¹ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

⁷⁰² *Lege* character.

⁷⁰³ *Lege* else.

⁷⁰⁴ *Lege* slight.

Now I have bine for som[e] time thinking to my self that if Col[one]l Conyngham⁷⁰⁵ wo[ul]d give you tow hondred [pound] a year payable in English mon[e]y quartarly and give you a suffasant⁷⁰⁶ bond or deed on his esteat for your origanall de[b]t of 1500 po[u]nd, to be disposed off at your death as you sho[ul]d order by your will, and as I hope and wish that such a proposall may be exceptable to you both and make peaces among such neer relations, it wo[ul]d be a ple[a]sure to me. But this is my one⁷⁰⁷ thought and [only] if it be agarable to you. I think this of the matter, as law steats [it] is uncartane and parhaps may inteall⁷⁰⁸ a law shut⁷⁰⁹ in you and your exe[cu]tcrs, and wear it my case, I wo[ul]d be glad to end my life in quiet with all p[e]opell. With 50 po[u]nd a year, [it] wo[ul]d as I hope, pay the int[e]rest of what mon[e]y you have bine obliged to borrow to sup[p]ort your self, and as you have still your origanall deet,⁷¹⁰ to pay your mon[e]y you have bine forced to borrow. I have no authorety for what I say but if you think of this in the same light I doe, you will think serrouslly of it, for I know it will not come up to your demand as to the in[e]trest you expect. But I have had some discourse leatly with some fri[e]nds that seems to me to know the matter, and tho[ugh] my dear br[other]⁷¹¹ had the best la[w]yers then in being, yet, there is as I am told some blonder⁷¹² in that settelment. This I am not sure off, but I have offten h[e]ard it soe.

I shall say noe more but prays God to drect you for the best, but for peass⁷¹³ I wo[ul]d doe as I now advise you. But this is all I have to say. If this be aggr[ee]able to you or not, I beg I may hear from you as so[o]ne as possible. I do as[s]ure you I have not had a line from the col[one]l these 3 or 4 months. As so[o]ne as the packets com[e]s in I will writ[e] again and send you your qu[a]rters allow[a]n[ce]s. I am my dear sister ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/16

235. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 FEBRUARY 1742/[43]

Last Saterdag I had my dear sisters of the 10[th] by the packet that came in that day. [I] had not time to writ[e] to you beca[us]e I wrot[e] to Mr Richison⁷¹⁴ that I promised to writ[e] to when I h[e]ard from you, and had I not wrot[e] then, it co[ul]d not have gone to Collrine⁷¹⁵ till this night, being but 2 post a wick to that co[un]tery. I told him very pla[i]nly that you co[ul]d not, nor wo[ul]d not, think of an [journey] as

⁷⁰⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁰⁶ *Lege* sufficient.

⁷⁰⁷ *Lege* own.

⁷⁰⁸ *Lege* entail.

⁷⁰⁹ *Lege* suit.

⁷¹⁰ *Lege* debt.

⁷¹¹ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707).

⁷¹² *Lege* blunder.

⁷¹³ *Lege* peace.

⁷¹⁴ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁷¹⁵ Coleraine, Co. Londonderry.

your health was in soe bad a way and beg[g]ed him to perswad⁷¹⁶ the col[one]l⁷¹⁷ to think of a more aggr[ee]able proposall. For money was your greatest want, to pay your de[b]ts which wear great, and you [are] very une[a]sey by them and a good deall on that heed⁷¹⁸ as I co[ul]d say. I sho[we]d my sis[t]er Jones my letter. She sayd I co[ul]d say no more.

Now I wo[ul]d have you ser[i]oussly consider what you wo[ul]d take, for I beli[e]ve your demands too high (this is what I have bine told by some fri[e]nds that thinks the Col[one]l much, much, too low), and wither⁷¹⁹ it will be in any wans power to make him more generoas⁷²⁰ I cannot pretend to say, for he is both obst[i]nat[e] and constonuss,⁷²¹ for in my life I never knew him doe a generouss thing. But if any wan can doe it, it most be Richison, for I hear from many he has more influance over him then any other parson.⁷²² And when you writ[e] again I shall ag[a]ine writ[e] to Mr Richison. Soe this is all I shall say on this tr[o]ublesome affair. I heart[i]ly wish for your sake it wear brought to a hap[p]y end. Nothing co[ul]d give me more ple[a]sure, not on the col[one]l's account, but yours. Sister Jones that has wrot[e] severall times to Dublin about your bissness, will writ[e] to you as all the answer she can get, which is nothing at all.

As for the jackalet, the forst is come from Chester. It looks well and as my last po[u]nd of the new is now in the pot, I'll tell you in my nixt how I like this. I am sor[r]y you did not take more to your self. I'll send you a bill for the jackalet and for your self nixt wick. If I continue as well as I am now and has bine prity e[a]sey for 3 or 4 days past, I intend God willing to goe to Dublin the latter end of this wick.

I gri[e]ve for the bad account you give of your self. As to a noyse⁷²³ contiuiuing affter surringing,⁷²⁴ [that] is very usuell.⁷²⁵

I expect Mr Burton⁷²⁶ so[o]ne by his last of the 10th. He sayd he wo[ul]d set out on last wick. We have had some fine days as in summer but now very stormey. I wish Mr Burton safe over. I shall add no more [than] to as[s]ure my dear sister I am in heast, but in all plasses⁷²⁷ and in all conditions I am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

[In Mary Jones's handwriting] Affter all the inquirey I cood make about your affair the inclose[d] scrape⁷²⁸ will now [inform] you that nothing is dune.⁷²⁹ I inquired at

⁷¹⁶ *Lege* persuade.

⁷¹⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷¹⁸ *Lege* head.

⁷¹⁹ *Lege* whether.

⁷²⁰ *Lege* generous.

⁷²¹ *Lege* contentious.

⁷²² *Recte* person.

⁷²³ *Lege* noise.

⁷²⁴ *Lege* syringing.

⁷²⁵ *Lege* usual.

⁷²⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁷²⁷ *Lege* places.

⁷²⁸ *Lege* scrap.

⁷²⁹ *Lege* done.

Co[un]seller Marlly⁷³⁰ if such a shute⁷³¹ had come to a hearing this tearm. He tould me it had not, nor was ther[e] any such entered on the bookes to be h[e]ard this tearm. I can say no mor[e] but, I am my dear sister, most sincerlly yours, M[ary] J[ones]

[Fragment] There is nothing done in my aunt Bonell affairs nor I beli[e]ve ever will.

NLI, MS 41,578/16

236. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 MARCH 1742/[43]

I beli[e]ve my dear sister will be pl[e]ased to see a letter from this places whear I have not bine senas last June, only wan wick in Jully, and [un]till yesterday I never was down stayers for 7 month. I boor⁷³² my j[o]urney much better then I or any body co[ul]d think I co[ul]d and am not any way worse then I was.

Inclosed is a bill [£]41–2–0 for the jackalet and 35 po[un]d for your quarter [allowance] dew last February as I think, but I am not sure, for at that time I was very ill. Soe I send this for your Febr[uar]ys quarters [allowance] for I beli[e]ve I did not send it before.

Now I must tell you I had last night a letter from Richison,⁷³³ I inclose it to you tho[ugh] to soe littell purposs. But he wo[ul]d have you to name the least you will possibly take and desires I wo[ul]d name what I think proper. I have wrot[e] to him as I had noe power to say any thing on that heed, but I ventered⁷³⁴ to tell Mr Richison if the col[one]l⁷³⁵ wo[ul]d make you an offer of a thousand po[un]ds to pay your de[b]ts, meny de[b]ts, but if he wo[ul]d add some thing more, it wo[ul]d be very kind and to let your [£]1500 ley⁷³⁶ upon the esteat, he paying you the leggell int[e]rest as is now goeing, I wo[ul]d again writ[e] to you, but at the same time sayed I had no authorety for what I sayd but I knew the Col[one]l depended much upon him. So pray writ[e] fully to me on this sub[j]ict as so[o]ne as you can, for I find Mr Mathews⁷³⁷ has not taken wan step on your bissness nor I beli[e]ve gives him self noe tr[o]uble about it, God drect you for the best.

The wind is conterey or Mr Burton⁷³⁸ wo[ul]d be hear, for he was at Chester last Thursday. I am in a hurry and can say noe more but that, I am most affactionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/16

⁷³⁰ Thomas Marlay (Marley) (c. 1691–1766), see letter no. 113, note 4.

⁷³¹ *Lege* suit.

⁷³² *Lege* bore.

⁷³³ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁷³⁴ *Lege* ventured.

⁷³⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷³⁶ *Lege* lay.

⁷³⁷ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 218, note 344.

⁷³⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

237. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 12 MARCH 1742[/43]

I had my dear sisters of the 28[th] of February by the last packet. I hope if the refferee goes on that things may be at last settled which I heart[i]ly wish may be to all your sattisfact[i]ons, but as I know not that gentellman,⁷³⁹ I co[ul]d wish that you co[ul]d have fo[u]nd some fri[e]nd that knew more of the famally then he can possibly doe; for with out being wholly appr[a]ised of all the affears of the famally and esteat, he most be much a stranger, only to your account that you can give him. I pray God send a hap[p]y end to it and as the Col[one]l⁷⁴⁰ is pl[e]ased with that gentellman, I hope he will so[o]ne fix his refferee which I shall long to hear more then any thing elas in this world.

I shall be une[a]sey [un]till I hear about your St Ant[ho]nay fire.⁷⁴¹ It is a p[a]inefull tr[o]ubellsome thing but it often does great sarvices. I have re[a]son to say soe, for tho[ugh] mine was very une[a]sey, I had good health affter it till this ugelly affear in my theyes⁷⁴² and my feett happaned.

You will be surprised to see this letter deated⁷⁴³ from Dublin. I was about 9 months in the co[u]ntery and 7 of them never down stayers till about 12 days agoe that I came hear, for my disorder was in a manner allmost quit[e] healed and I went into the couch⁷⁴⁴ emedetly⁷⁴⁵ and fo[u]nd no sort of inconveny⁷⁴⁶ in coming, nor for 7 days after. But last Sunday was the coldest day I ever fo[u]nd, and snow and frost ever senas, which has made them [her thighs] crack and runs and is very une[a]sey. But both docters and surgain⁷⁴⁷ says it is of great use to me.

As to Mr Burton,⁷⁴⁸ he is wind bo[u]nd at Chester above 16 or 17 days and both he and his fri[e]nds hear very une[a]sey for him, for we have very high winds and bad we[a]ther. Sister Jones is not well these 2 days, is now better, but what ailed her will do her good. I wish you may reed this, for 20 p[e]opell has come in senas I begane this. I can say no more but that I am most sencerly yours, K: C:

[PS] I beg you writ[e] so[o]ne. I hope you have got the bill, I sent it the forst of this month,
[£]76–2–0.

NLI, MS 14,578/16

⁷³⁹ Unidentified person engaged to act as a mediator in Jane Bonnell's dispute with Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁴⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁴¹ St Anthony's fire, known medically as Erysipelas: a feverish disease characterised by intense deep red local inflammation of the skin caused by streptococcus bacterium.

⁷⁴² *Lege* thighs.

⁷⁴³ *Lege* dated.

⁷⁴⁴ *Lege* coach.

⁷⁴⁵ *Lege* immediately.

⁷⁴⁶ *Lege* inconveniency.

⁷⁴⁷ *Lege* surgeon.

⁷⁴⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

238. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 18 MARCH 1742/[43]

Tho[ugh] I writ[e] to my dear sister but a few days a goe and then in some hurry, I am writting to tell you that I have heard nothing of the Col[one]⁷⁴⁹ since. I often think of him and his champion Mr R[ichardson]⁷⁵⁰ who can plead a bad cause as well as any man in Christendom, and I think his character of me is hardly to be parralled. He makes me a look by insinuation, but thats a small thing. I have just as much sence⁷⁵¹ as God has given me and that he cannot take from me with all his retherick,⁷⁵² but what surprises me most is that he would make me guilty of forgerry by calling mine a pretended debt. I am sure I must have had more will then my own if I had got my brother Conyngham⁷⁵³ to give me 2 bonds and also a deed to empower his trustees to make me a mortgage and blind the eyes of those trustees who [agreed] to make me a mortgage. And strange it is that no body has found out this forgerry till Mr R[ichardson] by his deep pennetration discovers it, but alack that is not all. I have made severall witnesses parger⁷⁵⁴ themselves by makeing [light] to the truth of my mortgage.

Now I think he pays you no gre[a]t complim[en]t by makeing you own such a sister. You are not the first that has had a bad sister, but I believe the first that ever had a regard for a sister guilty of forgerry and pargerry.⁷⁵⁵ I would have Mr Richardson know that wan ever⁷⁵⁶ I goe about such work I shall beg his assistance, sup[p]oseing that he is capable of doing a thing that he lays to my charge, but I dispise the reflection. He is mighty carefull to prevent dirt being thrown, but why then do[e]s he throw so much on me. But it will do me no harme, so let him goe on and blame me as he can and swear that the col[one]l is no way to bleam.⁷⁵⁷ He that can say that may say any thing that comes uppermost.

I shall be glad if the Col[one]l agrees to the proposall I gave you, a power to make of abateing him one thousand po[u]nd of the int[er]est due to me, he paying the costs of the shute.⁷⁵⁸ Terme⁷⁵⁹ draws near and he has no time to loose, tho[ugh] he has let much time slip ever since he proposed a referee. But I will say no more till I hear what he says next.

My service to sister Jones, Mr Burton and miss.⁷⁶⁰ Mr Burton going to Ireland without giving me due notice of it prevented your get[t]ing a pritty hussive⁷⁶¹ that

⁷⁴⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁵⁰ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁷⁵¹ *Lege* sense.

⁷⁵² *Lege* rhetoric.

⁷⁵³ Lt Gen. Henry Conyngham (d. 1707).

⁷⁵⁴ *Lege* perjure.

⁷⁵⁵ *Lege* perjury.

⁷⁵⁶ *Lege* whenever.

⁷⁵⁷ *Lege* blame.

⁷⁵⁸ *Lege* suit.

⁷⁵⁹ Legal term.

⁷⁶⁰ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) and his daughter Alice Burton (1728–45).

⁷⁶¹ A small cloth packet containing sewing needles and thread.

Mrs Bruce⁷⁶² had made for you, but we will try to send it by some safe hand. She begs you to accept of her humble servise, so do[e]s Capt[ain] Bruce.⁷⁶³

My leg continues much swelled but I think the pain is abated. I must take leave of my dear sister now. I assure her that I am her most obliged and affectionate, K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/16

239. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 22 MARCH 1742[/43]

My dear sisters of the 13[th] I had yesterday and nothing co[ul]d give me more reall joy then that a fri[e]ndly end wear put to that unhap[p]ly diffarances between you and your nephew Conyngham.⁷⁶⁴ It's a most mallancolly thing when such disput[e]s is a mong such neer releations.

I wrot[e] to you the 12[th] and without any derections e[i]ther from the Col[one]l⁷⁶⁵ or Mr Richison.⁷⁶⁶ I then thought if the Col[one]l wo[ul]d give you emedetly⁷⁶⁷ a thousand po[u]nd down in lew⁷⁶⁸ of all your int[e]rest, and security for your origannall deet⁷⁶⁹ of 1500 po[u]nd, he paying you the current int[e]rest as is now goeing for your fif[f]t[en] hondred po[u]nds, it wo[ul]d be the way to make all matters e[a]sey to you both. But to this letter I have as yet noe answer from you, and as to the Col[one]ls writing to me, I have noe letter from him senas last August. But I saw a letter from him to a fri[e]nd about your affear by the last packets (but the yesterdays) whear in he sayd he was very willing to mack⁷⁷⁰ as fri[e]ndly an end as he co[ul]d in the affear, and wished you wo[ul]d put a stop to the proseedings hear nixt tearm, and as there is but a fortnight between these tow nixt tearms, I think you ought to comply to that. For he says as everybody is full of bissness till the Parl[ia]m[ent] is up, consid[e]ring how long your affear has bine delayd, I think you sho[ul]d complay with this small delay of a fortnight. The Col[one]l thinks his nearest fri[e]nds hear is against him and seems angry with us all. God knows I wish nothing more then an end to both your sattissfacy. I wish he had left the matter wholly to your self and not bine gov[er]ned by his counce[l]lers, for while [doing so] he will not act a right part. I shall say no more on this disagreeable subiect but senc⁷⁷¹ I begane this letter, I had wan from your good fri[e]nd Mr Richison, not much to the purpess.

I am sor[r]y your leg is worse. It's a very sore ugley disorder and [I] hopes by the nixt packets to hear it is better and allsoe to have an answer to my letter of the 12[th], which I long for. Now I most tell you that most mon[e]y is at 4 per cent int[e]rest, 5 is the highest I hear off. I shall writ[e] to my good nices Conyngham

⁷⁶² Mrs Bruce: see letter no. 222, note 554.

⁷⁶³ Unidentified; brother to Jane Bonnell's friend and neighbour, Mrs Bruce.

⁷⁶⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁶⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁶⁶ John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁷⁶⁷ *Lege* immediately.

⁷⁶⁸ *Lege* lieu.

⁷⁶⁹ *Lege* debt.

⁷⁷⁰ *Lege* make.

⁷⁷¹ *Lege* since.

that tells me she is to be in London in Aprill and I think she hints as if she hoped it was, to be of sarvics to you, which she wishes it may.

Sister Jones, Mr Burton,⁷⁷² and your nices⁷⁷³ give sarves⁷⁷⁴ and duty to you. God send me good news from you for I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Senas I begane this letter I have at least 20 p[e]opell with me. I wish you may reed it. I forgot to tell you that if you consent to have the trayell⁷⁷⁵ put off, you most writ[e] to Mr Mathews⁷⁷⁶ about it, for as its for soe short a time I wo[ul]d show the Col[one]l how re[a]dy I was to oblige him in his desire.

Just as I was sealling this I had a letter from Mr Nisbet telling me the unhap[p]y curstance⁷⁷⁷ our nephew is in by his deets, and his brother's and yours ear soe he[a]vey on him, and [he] mentions some proposalls made to you which I doe not understand.⁷⁷⁸ I wish I co[ul]d hear from you in answe're to mine of the 12[th].

There was 2 bottells of palsy drops⁷⁷⁹ with the jackalet. Wear they both for me, for you did not mention them in any of your letters. You wo[ul]d oblige me much if you co[ul]d get any fri[e]nd to buy me a pint, or half a pint, of the best hon[e]y watter, and parhaps Mr Smith⁷⁸⁰ co[ul]d get some body to bring it over.

NLI, MS 41,578/16

240. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 4 APRIL 1743

I know my dear sister will be desirous to hear all that pas[s]es between the Col[one]l⁷⁸¹ and me and I am desirous that you should, hoping that you will not be of Mr Richisons⁷⁸² opinion that I only am to blame in the case. For the Col[one]l has now maid a new proposall to his sister Conyngham⁷⁸³ and says it shall be his last (tho[ugh] it is worse then some he had maid before), which is to secure the [£]1500, I give me [£]500 and an annuity of a [£]100 a year in lue⁷⁸⁴ of int[e]rest for the [£]1500, by which the principle of [£]1500 would seace⁷⁸⁵ at my death. Sure no man in his sencis could make such a proposall unless he thought the person he maid it to had lost theirs. I need no advisers in the case. A small degree of sence would make me reject it with indignation. He may accuse my advisors, indeed I have none nor need none,

⁷⁷² Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

⁷⁷³ Mary (Molly) Burton (1726–37).

⁷⁷⁴ *Lege* service.

⁷⁷⁵ *Lege* trail.

⁷⁷⁶ Edward Matthews, lawyer.

⁷⁷⁷ *Lege* circumstance.

⁷⁷⁸ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) delayed settling debts inherited from the estate of his brother Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

⁷⁷⁹ Palsy drops: see letter no. 88, note 342.

⁷⁸⁰ Unidentified London merchant: see letters nos 120 and 202, and also no. 90.

⁷⁸¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁷⁸² John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer: see letter no. 43, note 500.

⁷⁸³ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁷⁸⁴ *Lege* lieu.

⁷⁸⁵ *Lege* cease.

the case is plain, but how like a foole should I have looked had I stopt proceedings. I would rather be called unreasonable by the Col[one]l and a cheat by Mr Richardson then a foole by the rest of the world that would hear the case.

I am sure I am tired with hearing and writing about it. I have writ[ten] to Mrs Conyngham⁷⁸⁶ that I will abait⁷⁸⁷ half the int[e]rest due to me since payment was stopt and then consider what I shall get w[i]th the int[e]rest I have paid, for a considerable sum is deducted out of that half. It will hardly be one po[un]d. But now the time is so short by the Ccol[one]ls manny delays that a triall must come on. So I need say no more of it but hope a short time now will deside the matter.

I thank God I can tell you that the swelling in my leg and foot is much [remainder of letter missing]

NLI, MS 41,578/16

⁷⁸⁶ Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767).

⁷⁸⁷ *Lege* abate.

SECTION 5

1744-1747

LETTERS 241–289

The letters contained in this section cover Katherine's correspondence later in her life, including correspondence with the family of her nephew William Conolly and in particular with his wife Lady Ann Conolly. Of note is Katherine's affection for and correspondence with her grandniece Katherine (Kety) Conolly and her increasing reliance on the Conolly family for emotional support.

241. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 14 APRIL 1744

2 packets a goe I had my dear sisters of the 2[n]d and got my sister Jones to doe all she co[ul]d about get[t]ing some ordear of what papers has bine given to Mr Whit.¹ He says he still wants more papers some time. He says they ear in Mr Conollys² custety,³ sometimes in Mr Mathews,⁴ some times in Mr Clemens⁵ which they ear not. Mr Nisbet⁶ told me he spoke to Mr Whit and he sho[ul]d see all the papers, but he never came himself but sent a boy for them with out any derrections what he wanted. But as he is Lord Chife Justics Marleys clark, sister Jones will goe to him and see what he can doe about them, which if I hear before I seall this you shall know.

As yet nothing is thought off about Master Burton,⁷ and hard, very hard it will be to know how or whear to fix him, and tho[ugh] he will want such accomplish[en]ts as such a youth will want, Dublin I think most be his runnin. Soe meny idell young gentell[men] is now in and about Dublin that if he sho[ul]d fall in with them he wo[ul]d be undone as they ear, soe this is a matter to be well consid[e]red. As to Willy, he is left to the care of Col[one]l Conyngham⁸ and he [is] app[o]inted his gardui[a]ne as they tell me. I never saw the will, but the more they look in to poor Frank Burton papers they find he is more in deet then all he has will pay. Not a pen[n]y at the bankers hear but money oweing there. His sickness was very expensive, above 500 po[u]nds, 3 and 4 g[u]iney a day for 4 months so[o]ne runs

¹ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer who acted on behalf of Henry Conyngham (1706–81) in his dispute with his aunt Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) concerning the mortgage she held on the Conyngham Donegal estate: NLI, MS 41,579/4.

² William Conolly (1706–54).

³ *Lege* custody.

⁴ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

⁵ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77): see *DIB*.

⁶ Possibly a member of the Nesbitt family of Co. Donegal.

⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁸ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) was appointed legal guardian to his nephew William Burton (1733–96) following the death of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

away with mon[e]y, 2 nurse-ke[e]pers which he co[ul]d not want, and have one 2 more besides. Some of my sarv[an]ts offton sent his apothagrys⁹ bill and his sarvants wages [to me], his horses standing at an inn. And had he not bine¹⁰ hear how great wo[ul]d the expenc[e]s have bine, 2 fires and candells never out. As to his mother,¹¹ she is a hap[p]y woman as to her self. For ten days before he deyed I wo[ul]d see no company nor till affter he was burryed, and she [was] visiting and dining a brood,¹² e[i]ther hear or any whear she was asked. And it was thought odd in me [that] I sho[ul]d not see compeny when his mother was a brood every day. This is all I can say of her, she is still in town.

I can give you but an account of very few papers. They say Mr Mathews has got some of them. What Mr Nisbet has was the settellm[en]t which Mr Whit got a copy off long agoe. Mr Nisbet wrot[e] to the col[one]l to get an order from Mr Conolly to Mr Clark to get Mr Whit to look over those papers, but he never sent such an order nor answ[e]red Nisbets letter.

Pray send me the account of the jackelet that I may draw a bill for it and your nixt May quarters allowances, for I shall not writ[e] ag[a]ine till I hear from you.

I have got from Mr Nisbett a list of what papers he has, soe I am sure I wo[ul]d not but [that] you desired it have had the tr[o]uble for any consid[e]ration, and with a tyed up wack¹³ hand, I can say no more, but I am sincer[e]ly yours, Ka:Conolly

[PS] I wish you may reed the letter or the inclosed letter or the inclosed list.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

242. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 MAY 1744

I have 2 letters of my dear sisters to answer. I wo[ul]d last wick have answered you[r] forst but sister Jones did writ[e] and soe I did not. As to yours of the 16[th], I shall now answer. I had an account of your rece[i]veing the bill. I am glad you have had the ple[a]sure of good ni[e]ces Conynghams compeny. She is a most vallawable woman and I wish her extr[e]amly well. I am glad you had our nephews¹⁴ with you. As yet nothing is done about Frank but will [be] so[o]ne.

I thought the stofe I sent Mrs Bruse¹⁵ wo[ul]d have bine with you by this time but the lady that takes it co[ul]d not get room in the yacht¹⁶ and its now come back [to me] affter she had it and pack[ed] up. She sent it back to have it made in[to] a mans night gown and soe its made, tho[ugh] not any way cot.¹⁷ Soe at last I hope she may

⁹ *Lege* apothecary's.

¹⁰ *Lege* been.

¹¹ Alice Tilson (d. *post* 1765) married Francis Burton (d. 1714).

¹² *Lege* abroad.

¹³ *Lege* weak.

¹⁴ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁵ Mrs Bruce, see letter no. 222, note 554.

¹⁶ *Lege* yacht.

¹⁷ *Lege* cut.

get it, for I am sure I have had my o[w]n tr[o]ubles with it and I hope she will lick¹⁸ it and then my tr[o]uble is over.

As to what you say about my telling Col[one]l Conyngham,¹⁹ upon my word I wo[ul]d never have wrot[e] nor sayd any thing to widden²⁰ a brack²¹ between such ne[a]r relations. If I be not mistaken, Mr Clemons²² told me he h[e]ard of such a thing and beli[e]ved you had wrot[e] it to the Col[one]l, but as he and I silldom correspond, I can say no more of it.

The linnin is safe in London and I have made [*sic*] writ[e] this day [to] the linnin draper to know whear he ordered it to be left.

As to Col[one]l Conyngham, I saw his letter to Mr Clemans about Whit²³ giveing a power to get his papers from him and discharge him sences he wo[ul]d not obey his derections, as allsoe wan of his agants. This I doe as[s]ure you is truth and he was vary angory.

Sister Jones, Sir St Gorg Gore and his lady²⁴ gives there sarvices to you is all. I shall say [no] more at this time but to as[s]ure my dear sister, I am most sincerely your ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

243. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 JUNE 1744

I had my dear sisters of the 25[th] 2 days agoe. I have sayd all I can about Frankey Burton²⁵ and I hope some thing will be so[o]ne done about him.

I am so glad the Col[one]l and you ear soe neer a concluding your long tr[o]ublesome affair.²⁶ I did not hear it before but by the Col[one]ls letter to Clemons²⁷ I did sopose it wo[ul]d frighten Mr Whit.²⁸ I made my sister²⁹ writ[e] yesterday that we hoped Mr Mathews³⁰ wo[ul]d push it on and that no delay wo[ul]d be given to it now.

¹⁸ *Lege* like.

¹⁹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁰ *Lege* widen.

²¹ *Lege* break.

²² Nathaniel Clements (1705–77).

²³ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 261, note 1.

²⁴ Sir St George Gore-St George (1722–46), 5th bt, was the eldest son of Sir Ralph Gore, 4th bt, and his wife Elizabeth Ashe. He assumed the additional surname of St George to inherit from his maternal grandfather. Gore-St George was MP for Co. Donegal, 1741–6, and was appointed high sheriff of Fermanagh in 1746. He married Alice Burton (1728–45), daughter of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, on 22 September 1743. Gore-St George died soon after his wife, aged 24, and was succeeded in the baronetcy by his younger brother Ralph. He was buried at Castletown, Co. Kildare: *HIP*.

²⁵ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

²⁶ Referring to the legal dispute between Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and her nephew Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) concerning the Conyngham's Co. Donegal estate.

²⁷ Nathaniel Clements (1705–77): *DIB*.

²⁸ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 241, note 1.

²⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

³⁰ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

As to the stoffe,³¹ I beli[e]d the lady that takes it sealed yesterday, soe I hope you will get it at last, and as to the linnen, I have at last got the account whear it is to be called for, and the linnin draper that did not l[e]ave it whear I ordered it shall repent his being soe car[e]less.

Soe as the we[a]ther is very hot these 4 or 5 days I can not writ[e] long letters. Sir St G[e]org Gore and lady³² went to Dublin yesterday and returns to morrow. He is about marrying his 3[r]d sister³³ very, very, greatly. A much better fortune with her 4 or 5000 po[u]nd then my dear child³⁴ has with her 1250 po[u]nd be side [the £]6000 she most get at my death if I be worth soe much. This gentellman has above 3500 po[u]nd and jonters³⁵ most fall in [at] [£]1300 a year. He is a convert, but his mar[r]ying in to a prottestant famally shows he is in e[a]rnest. I am sencereley yours,
K: C:

NLI, MS 41,578/17

244. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 JUNE 1744

I wo[ul]d have answered my dear sister's letter of the 6[th] which came in with 3 packets last wick, but as I came to Dublin to see Lady Gore's³⁶ portion payd which sho[ul]d have bine last December, but as Sir St George Gore did not pass fines and recoverys till last tearm, it co[ul]d not be done so[o]nner, and it has made me poorer then I ever was or ever thought I co[ul]d be. But its now over and the trustees hav[e] payed off soe much of the deets³⁷ upon his³⁸ eateat, but I never was soe fetuged³⁹ in my life. For 3 days together in that time I wrot[e] my name above fifty times I beli[e]ve.

But this sho[ul]d not have hindered me from writing to you the day I h[e]ard you had got your decree.⁴⁰ But Mr Mathews⁴¹ that came hear from court to tell me of it, with great joy I doe as[s]ure you, sayd he wo[ul]d writ[e] fully to you and I gave him a frank and Raph Samson⁴² told me he had wrot[e] to you. Tho[ugh] I think Mr Mathews thinks there was many unneserey⁴³ delays given, but I wish you joy of it and hopes it will make your mind more e[a]sey.

³¹ *Lege* stuff (Irish linen): see letter no. 242.

³² Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46) and Alice (*née* Burton) (1729–45).

³³ Katherine may be referring to Catherine Gore who married as his second wife James Daly, son of Denis and Elinor Daly (*née* French), Co. Galway.

³⁴ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

³⁵ *Lege* jointures.

³⁶ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45) married Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46) in 1743.

³⁷ *Lege* debts.

³⁸ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744), deceased father of Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45).

³⁹ *Lege* fatigued

⁴⁰ Referring to the end of the protracted dispute between Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and her nephew Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) concerning the Conyngham's Co. Donegal estate.

⁴¹ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

⁴² Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

⁴³ *Lege* unnecessary.

I am glad you have got the piss of linnin I sent you. I thought it very good tho[ugh] not at that time of year ch[e]ape, for allways between the old and new from the bl[e]ach it is allways very de[a]r which was the case when I sent it. I hope before this you have got the piss of stofe and that Mrs Bruce⁴⁴ likes [it]. It was cartenly left at Mr Hores by Mrs Demmer⁴⁵ whose son is married to the Duck of Dorsits daughter, but whear she lodges I cannot tell, but she promised me fa[i]thfully to l[e]ave it at Mr Hores.

I can now tell you that nixt wick Master Burton⁴⁶ will be sent for. There goes for him the gentellman that is to be his governor and his fathers old man Conner,⁴⁷ but whear he is to be plased⁴⁸ or what allowance[e]s the Lord Chanc[el]ler will give I cannot tell. The gentellman that is to take care of him has a good carricter for a sober religouss man. His name is Rives,⁴⁹ [he] was to have now gone in to orders but will delay it a year open this account, that he may allways attend him to every places he goes to which he co[ul]d not doe soe well in a clargymans dress. This is all I can tell you.

Sir St Gorge Gore and his lady goes this day to his house in the co[u]ntry of Fermanagh, near CastellCooll.⁵⁰ I am tr[o]ubled at there goeing, they have sent and ear to send above 50 or 60 car loads of goods, for all the goods was sold and the house let at Sir Raph Gores death. She⁵¹ is very notable in all her affears and they have need to be soe, for there deets⁵² ear still very great, but with any manig[e]m[en]t a few years will make them e[a]sey.

I have made this too long a letter for my wack⁵³ hand, soe shall say noe more but that I am my dear sisters ever affactionate.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

245. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 7 JULY 1744

I had my dear sisters of the 25[th] of June by the last packets. I cannot immagin what becomes of my letters for I wrot[e] 4 to you in June. My last was of the 26[th]

⁴⁴ Jane Bonnell's London friend and neighbour: see letter no.242.

⁴⁵ Mary, daughter of John Churchill of Henbury, Dorset, married Joseph Damer, MP, of Winterbourne Came, Dorset, England. Her son Joseph Damer (1718–98), of Milton Abbey, Dorset and Shronell, Co. Tipperary married Caroline Sackville, daughter of Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke of Dorset and his wife Elizabeth (née Colyear) on 27 July 1742. Damer was created Baron Milton in 1753 and earl of Dorchester in 1792: *HoP: 1754–1790*.

⁴⁶ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁴⁷ Unidentified family retainer.

⁴⁸ *Lege* placed.

⁴⁹ Probably spelt Ryves, unidentified tutor to Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) who may have been a member of the Ryves family of Rathallagh House, Co. Wicklow.

⁵⁰ Castle Coole, the seat of the Corry family in Co. Fermanagh. The Gore residence was at nearby Belle Isle Castle which was originally built as a house and inhabited by Sir Ralph Gore (c. 1675–1733), 4th bt, c.1700.

⁵¹ Alice Gore (née Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

⁵² *Lege* debts.

⁵³ *Lege* weak.

and I then, I think, I tould you Master Burton⁵⁴ was then emedetly⁵⁵ to be sent for, which was accordingly done. Last Sunday or Monday the gentellman⁵⁶ that is to take care of him and his fathers man Conner is gone for him.

I expect sister Jones to morrow, I send my couch⁵⁷ for her. I can as[s]ure you he⁵⁸ is not to goe near e[i]ther grandmother or unkell.⁵⁹ What his gardunes⁶⁰ thinks at present is to take rooms for him in the Collidge,⁶¹ but not to doe any duty but as a plaas⁶² whear he may have young gentellmen of good carricters to converse with. This is now thought best, but he will come hear some time and I beli[e]ve will goe to the county of Fermanaugh to see his brother and sister⁶³ that longs to see him. His governer⁶⁴ will goe with him every where and they say [he is] a very agr[ee]able companun.⁶⁵ Soe I need say noe more of him.

As to the bundell left at Mr Hores, it most be the stoffe⁶⁶ for I know of nothing elas. It was made up in a big gown but not cot,⁶⁷ and how the lady that to[o]ke [it] maniged⁶⁸ it I can not tell. But I had my one shear⁶⁹ of tr[o]uble besid[e]s the d[o]ubble expenc[e]s, but if it obliges a fri[e]nd of yours I am well content.

I sup[p]ose you hear that Col[one]l Conyngham is goinge to be married.⁷⁰ It's a great fortune which is what he all ways had his mind most fixed on. I pray God make him hap[p]y, but the fortune will make him very e[a]sey in his curcumstancs. I have not h[e]ard it from himself but from Mr Nisbet.⁷¹

I am very [lonely] for want of my dear girills⁷² being soe fear⁷³ from me. As to the we[a]ther, we had a wick very hot but for a wick past we have had nothing but r[a]ine and storm[s], [it] has spo[i]led all our hay and done hort⁷⁴ to all the corn; the best sort suffer much.

I am sor[r]y you have had a cold and sore thro[a]t, but glad you think your self

⁵⁴ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁵⁵ *Lege* immediately.

⁵⁶ Unidentified: see letter no. 244, note 49.

⁵⁷ *Lege* coach.

⁵⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁵⁹ Alice Burton (*née* Tison) (d. *post* 1765), and an unidentified uncle. It is unclear which uncle is being referred to here.

⁶⁰ *Lege* guardians. Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) was appointed guardian to his nephews Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96).

⁶¹ Trinity College, Dublin.

⁶² *Lege* place.

⁶³ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45) and Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46).

⁶⁴ Unidentified: see letter no. 244, note 49.

⁶⁵ *Lege* companion.

⁶⁶ *Lege* stuff: see letter no. 242.

⁶⁷ *Lege* cut.

⁶⁸ *Lege* managed.

⁶⁹ *Lege* share.

⁷⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) married Ellen Merrett (1724–1816) in 1744.

⁷¹ Unidentified, though possibly Albert Nesbitt, a member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal: see letter no. 253 below, note 139.

⁷² Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45), wife of Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46), 5th bt.

⁷³ *Lege* far.

⁷⁴ *Lege* hurt.

better. Sore thro[a]t is a raging disorder both in Dublin and in the co[u]ntry. Poor Lady Ann Conolly⁷⁵ has bine at deaths door with it, besid[e]s all most starved for want of n[o]urishment for above a fortnight past. She has tasted nothing but a little tea and chickin broth with a bit of breed.⁷⁶

I am tyerd but must ask you what you hear from Col[one]l Conyngham about your one affears. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

246. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 18 JULY 1744

I had a letter from my dear sister 2 or 3 packets agoe. It was of the 3[r]d of July which I wo[ul]d have answered before this but you sayd you expected the stoffe⁷⁷ that wick and I delayed writing till you told me you had got it and how it was liked, but haveing no letter from you senas, I writ[e] to let you know I am, I thank God, prity well, tho[ugh] last wick I was taken valantly⁷⁸ ill with a sevear purging for some hours. It was such as I never had before. Unknown to me, they sent to Dublin for docters and my apothem[ca]ry. They came in the night and emedetly gave me ladderman glisters⁷⁹ which put a stop to my disorder and all most for a wick affter, but now I am come right again and am I thank my God better then I was before it.

I sopose by this time Master Burton⁸⁰ will be comeing away. I doe not know yet whear he will be but not ne[a]r his bruttell fri[e]nds, this summer I mean. When he comes [to Ireland] he will have a mind to see his sister⁸¹ in the county of Fermanugh. She comes back in the begin[n]ing of September. At forst he must be a littell indulged affter such a rune⁸² of devertions. This is all I can say till I know more about him.

3 packets come in senas I h[e]ard from you. Sister Jones is very well and her sarvices to you. Soe has meny more of your fri[e]nds.

I am sor[r]y the Col[one]l has acted such a part. I sho[ul]d be willing to think it was done by his manigers. I hear he is goeing to be mar[r]yed to a great fortune, if it be as I hear. I hope it will make him e[a]sey in his curcomstans.⁸³ He has not wrot[e] a word of it to me nor any demand for my Welch estate.

Soe now I hope I am e[a]sey as to the [manuscript illegible]. He owed Lady Gore⁸⁴ 200 po[u]nd senas the year 1735, offten demanded but never payd a pen[n]y int[e]rest. Tho[ugh] offten demanded, it was part of her portion and I payd it and the 6 purst,⁸⁵ tho[ugh] now he writ[e]s he hopes I will take but 4 purst. I have abbated⁸⁶ him

⁷⁵ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁷⁶ *Lege* bread.

⁷⁷ *Lege* stuff, Irish linen: see letter no. 242.

⁷⁸ *Lege* violently.

⁷⁹ *Lege* laudanum and glister; a clyster was an old term for an enema.

⁸⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

⁸¹ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45) who resided at Belle Isle, Co. Fermanagh: see letter no. 265, note 279.

⁸² *Lege* run.

⁸³ *Lege* circumstances.

⁸⁴ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

⁸⁵ *Lege* per cent.

⁸⁶ *Lege* abated.

wan, for he says I am allways worse to him then strangers and that I never did a kind nor sivell⁸⁷ thing to him in my life. This I saw under his hand. I told his corraspondans⁸⁸ to writ[e] to him [that] his memery is bad, for I lent him wanst when he sayd he was much distress[s]ed 200 po[u]nd, and another time wan, which both bonds I gave him up and [he] never pays principle nor int[e]rest. This he thinks noe kindness except I gave him all I have, but I hope now he is above asking.

I have made this a longer letter then I intended and will say noe more but to as[s]ure my dear sister I am most affectionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

247. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 23 JULY [1744]⁸⁹

My dear daughter Lady Anne,

I am 2 letters in your past and when I rose this morning I was fully resolved to write to you but so many people came in and so much distress I co[ul]d not, and I go this evening to Castletown with poor Sir St George Gore. He has got an addition to his trouble which grieves me so.⁹⁰ Farewell, God bless you. Your Mr Conolly is very well; he stays in town till Saterdag. I am most affectionately your d[ear] madam, Katherine Conolly.

TCD, MS 3984/1756

248. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 31 JULY 1744

I had my dear sisters of the 23[rd] yesterday, I thank you and your fri[e]nds fer drinking my health. I am I thank you very well and glad that Mrs Bruce⁹¹ likes her stofe⁹² soe well. It was what I liked best but as I remember the wan that was lost was prityer⁹³ and a yard more in it.

A Sunday I had a vast deal of company, 3 tables quit[e] full and I knew only of 3 or 4 of my good n[e]ighbour, but when I came from church I fo[u]nd a house full from Dublin.

Lady Ann Conolly,⁹⁴ tho[ugh] not very well, yet came to take her l[e]ave of me and this day I send my coach fer all her sweet children,⁹⁵ and sure never parents was blessed with finer babys, all han[d]some. But for shap[e] and good understanding she is beyond anything of her age. I gri[e]ve at their l[e]aveing me; soe ear they.

⁸⁷ *Lege* civil.

⁸⁸ *Lege* correspondent.

⁸⁹ A letter from Lady Cashell to Katherine Conolly endorsed with a letter from Katherine Conolly to Lady Anne Conolly.

⁹⁰ Referring to a miscarriage suffered by Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 249.

⁹¹ Mrs Bruce, a neighbour of Jane Bonnell in London who took care of her when she was sick.

⁹² *Lege* stuff.

⁹³ *Lege* prettier.

⁹⁴ Lady Anne Conolly (1714–97) (*née* Wentworth).

⁹⁵ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Thomas (1737–1803), Caroline (*c.* 1741–1817), James (Jamey) (*b. ante* 1745), Frances (*ante* 1745–1817), Anne, and Harriet (1744–71) Conolly.

I hope you now beli[e]ve Col Conyngham⁹⁶ is in reality goeing to be married, for the settel[m]en[t] is adrawing, but it will take a month to finish them. He has not wrote a word of it yet to me. I am sor[r]y he has not done right or kindly in your affear with him.⁹⁷ I wish it wear over to both your sattisfactions. [It] wo[ul]d give me great pleasure for I love pacies⁹⁸ and friendship. But I hope you will come back to a right way of thinking and that I may hear all is over. You have bine very badly used.

I a[s]sure [you] sister Jones⁹⁹ and all fri[e]nds well. I desire with my sarvices to Mrs Bruce, you will excuse my not writing to her for my hand I stra[i]ned all most a year agoe is still very wack.¹⁰⁰ You see how I have be gone¹⁰¹ this letter, its not yet ten a clock soe I am very sober. I shall say noe more being tyerd¹⁰² but to as[s]ure my dear sister that I am most sencerly and affactionatly yours, Ka Conolly

[PS] in my nixt letter I'll send your [quarter] bill.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

249. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 AUGUST 1744

I had my dear sisters of the 30[th] of July 3 days agoe. I told you in my last I wo[ul]d not writ[e] again till I sent you a bill which I now doe. Mine was the 31[st] of July.

I am glad Frank Burton¹⁰³ was with you rather then goe with those gentellmen. He was expected over as last Satterday, but I hear nothing of him senas. His aunt Clemens¹⁰⁴ that is come from Franc[e]s landed that day as I hear and quit[e] french in every pertick[u]ler.

I beli[e]ve Frank's news about his unkell Conyngham¹⁰⁵ is not soe for I hear everything is settled. That he is gone to be electted a member of parl[ia]em[en]t I beli[e]ve is true, brought in as I hear by wan of her unkles.¹⁰⁶ This is all I know for I have nather h[e]ard from him nor Nisbet this month; from him [Henry] not these 7 months.

⁹⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) married Ellen Merrett (1724–1816), the daughter of Solomon Merrett, of Hart Street, London, England, a merchant, and Rebecca Savage in Sep. 1744.

⁹⁷ Referring to the lawsuit between Jane Bonnell (d. 1745) and Henry Conyngham (1707–81) concerning the mortgage she held on the Conyngham's Donegal estate.

⁹⁸ *Lege* peace.

⁹⁹ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

¹⁰⁰ *Lege* weak.

¹⁰¹ *Lege* begun.

¹⁰² *Lege* tired.

¹⁰³ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹⁰⁴ Elizabeth Burton (d. 1748), sister of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, married Theophilus Clements (c. 1687–1728) of Rathkenny, Co. Cavan before 1723; she died at Toulon, France, in 1748. Her brother-in-law Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) remarked that 'she made a will and died a papist, and has left all her effects [to] a priest to pray for her soul, so that I don't think she is any loss': Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements*, p. 44.

¹⁰⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁰⁶ Unidentified uncle of Ellen Merrett (1724–1816).

Lady Gore¹⁰⁷ is well recov[e]red, it gr[i]eves me that she has miscar[r]yed. It's a bad thing in young p[lo]p[er] to doe, noe sort of case can be given for it. I send you her last letter which pray burn as I wo[ul]d have done but I had a mind you sho[ul]d see it; she wrot[e] it in bed. She has a husband soe car[e]full he will not let her sture¹⁰⁸ nor doe he sture from her.

Sister Jones and all your fri[e]nds well as I am. I can say no more to my dear sister at this time but to as[s]ure you I am sencer[e]ly and affactionatly yours, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

250. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 6 SEPTEMBER 1744

I have 2 letters of my dear sisters to answer, wan I had some time agoe of the 15[th] of August and yours yesterday with 4 packets, with an account of your haveing got the [£]35 bill. I was une[a]sey to hear it was got to you.

I am obliged to you for giving Willy¹⁰⁹ the crown, I quit[e] for got it. I am glad you commend that boy. Is he recov[e]red his prity looks senas he had the small pox?¹¹⁰ His father sayd he had not. I am sor[r]y Frank¹¹¹ is not left London and that the gentellman¹¹² that was to take him loves ganting¹¹³ as well as he. I hope when he comes over more care will be taken of him.

I had a letter from Mr Nisbet yesterday. He says all things is settled for the col[one]ls¹¹⁴ mar[r]i[a]ge. Only the ladys attorney is gone a j[o]urney of 300 miles and they think it cannot be done till his return. I wish it wear over, I heat delay.

My sister Jones wrot[e] to you for fear you [thought] something was amiss among us but I thank God we ear all well.

Col[one]l Conyngham wrot[e] to me of his ma[t]ch goeing one¹¹⁵ but he made her fortune but [£]1500, and [£]3[000] more when she came of age which will be so[o]ne. I wrot[e] to him [that] I thought that a great fortune, but it was much less then Mr Nisbet made it, but he sayd not wan word of my esteat, nor I to him. I beli[e]ve his heart is as much set opon it as opon a wife, but he shall never have it with out paying heart[i]ly for it, for it's the most I have to l[e]ave among my fri[e]nds.

I have meny letters to writ[e] soe most conclude when I as[s]ure my dear sister I am most affactionatly hers, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

¹⁰⁷ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

¹⁰⁸ *Lege* stir.

¹⁰⁹ William Burton (1733–96), son of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹¹⁰ See letter no. 205.

¹¹¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹¹² Referring to Francis Pierpont Burton's tutor: see letter no. 244, note 49.

¹¹³ *Lege* jaunting.

¹¹⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) who was engaged to marry Ellen Merrett (1724–1816).

¹¹⁵ *Lege* on.

251. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO ALEXANDER MURRAY OF BROUGHTON,¹¹⁶
12 SEPTEMBER 1744

Dear Sir,

I have made meny inquirys affter you and your ffamellys health but leatly I had a letter sent me from Mr Addi¹¹⁷ deated May the 30[th] 1743 with won from him about my get[t]ing him some post in the revenew, and opon my word I have taken more p[a]ines and has wrot[e] more letters to the Commiss[ion]ners¹¹⁸ upon his account then I ever did for any body. But to noe purpose for they pla[i]nly say he shall never be provided for. This I have made writ[e] to him for as a long time agoe I wrot[e] to him I wo[ul]d doe all I co[ul]d to get something done for him on your account. I assure you I left nothing undone that was in my power but to noe effect, so this is all I can say of that matter.

I hope this will find you and your lady, and son¹¹⁹ well and all yours and all our fri[e]nds in your kingdome. I hear the earl of Glencarn¹²⁰ is marryed to a great fortune which I am glad to hear for tho[ugh] I doe not know my fri[e]nds, its a ple[a]sure to me to hear they ear well.

With my best regards and sarvices to your lady and son to home¹²¹ I wish all hap[p]yness. I am sir with all immaginable esteem your affactionate kinswoman and obed[i]ant humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I most again tell you I am sorry [it] was not in my power to sarve Mr Addi. I as[s]ure you I did all I co[ul]d. I sup[p]ose you have h[e]ard my nephew Col[one]l Conyngham is marryed about a fortnight agoe to a young lady and a very good fortune in London.¹²²

NAS, Murray of Broughton Papers, MS GD10–1421–12–520

252. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 SEPTEMBER 1744

I had my dear sister of the 12th by the last packets. I have little to say more then we ear all well and that I shal[l] sp[e]ake to Lord Chife Justices Marlay¹²³ when I see him, but he has bine very ill and yesterday vent[ur]erd to take the ear¹²⁴ and was

¹¹⁶ Alexander Murray (c.1680–1750) of Broughton, Wigtown and Cally, Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Kirkcudbright, Scotland, Katherine's kinsman. The Conyngham lands at Boylough and Bannagh, Co. Donegal, were originally held by John Murray whose daughter Marian married Alexander Conyngham (d. 1660), Katherine's grandfather: *HoP: 1715–1754*; the Murray of Broughton papers are held in PRONI, D2860.

¹¹⁷ Thomas Addi, Donnaghadee, Co. Down, compiled a report on the Donegal estate of Alexander Murray of Broughton in 1731 in response to increased emigration from the estates: PRONI D2860/25/3.

¹¹⁸ The Irish revenue commissioners.

¹¹⁹ Lady Euphemia Stewart, daughter of James, 5th earl of Galloway, married Alexander Murray (c. 1680–1750), of Broughton, Kirkcudbright, Scotland in 1726.

¹²⁰ The Conyngham family were descended from the Scottish earls of Glencairn.

¹²¹ *Lege* whom.

¹²² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and Ellen Conyngham (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816).

¹²³ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice: see letter no. 113, note 4.

¹²⁴ *Lege* air.

better after. Sister Jones tells me you have a scroter¹²⁵ – in her passion she wrot[e] to you severall times what you wo[ul]d have her doe with some very old things – parhaps the papers or securitys you want may be in it, but she will not venter¹²⁶ with out your derrection.

The Col[one]l has wrot[e] to all his a[u]nts¹²⁷ I beli[e]ve in the same [words], for sister Jones letter and mine was the same words, about 4 lines. I inclose this to Mr Conolly¹²⁸ to frank for Mr Potter¹²⁹ is not in Dublin soe it may be longer of get[t]ing to you.

I am glad Willey Burton¹³⁰ is a good boy. God keep him soe and make him a good man. As to his brother,¹³¹ I hear nothing of him but we fancy he will come in by the yacht¹³² thats at the other side and the wind is fear.¹³³

I will inde[a]ver to get some franks for my letters to you before I writ[e] again. My sarvices to Mrs Bruce.¹³⁴ I am obliged to her for remembering me. Mrs Jones and Mrs Nisbet¹³⁵ sends there sarvice to you. And beli[e]ve me you have my sencear wishes for your health and hap[p]yness, for I am most affactionatly my dear sisters Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

253. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 24 SEPTEMBER 1744

To show my dear sister how re[a]dy I am to sarve you, tho[ugh] I wrot[e] to you but the 20[th], I send you my Lord Chife Justics Marlays¹³⁶ answer to wan I wrot[e] to him about your bissness. He not yet being soe well as to come abroad¹³⁷ and as I sent my last letter to Struton¹³⁸ to Mr Conolly, I wo[ul]d not delay sending this inclosed to Albert Nisbet¹³⁹ that it might goe the sooner then I beli[e]ve the other will doe. I think you cannot expect a better answee.

¹²⁵ *Lege* scriptoire, a fall front desk.

¹²⁶ *Lege* venture.

¹²⁷ The three Conyngnam sisters were Katherine Conolly (1662–1752), Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) and Mary Jones (1675–1765).

¹²⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

¹²⁹ John Potter, under-secretary and secretary to the lords justices of Ireland: see letter no. 206, note 421.

¹³⁰ William Burton (1733–96).

¹³¹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹³² *Lege* yacht.

¹³³ *Lege* fair.

¹³⁴ Jane Bonnell's neighbour and friend in London: see letter no. 222, note 554.

¹³⁵ Unidentified member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

¹³⁶ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

¹³⁷ *Lege* abroad.

¹³⁸ Stretton Hall, Stretton, Penkridge, Staffordshire, the English residence of William Conolly (1706–54).

¹³⁹ Albert Nesbitt who married Elizabeth Gould in 1729 was a younger brother of Thomas Nesbitt (c. 1675–1750) of Lissmore, Crossdoney, Co. Cavan. Albert was a successful merchant and banker in London and was an important contact there for Nathaniel Clements: Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements*, pp 50–51.

I wrot[e] in my other letter about a scroter¹⁴⁰ [that] my sister Jones [thinks] parhaps in that you may find some papers that may be of use to you. I can say no more being in hast[e] but I wo[ul]d not delay a post. I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[Enclosure: Thomas Marlay to Katherine Conolly, 21 September 1744]

Madam,

I have ten thousand reasons to convince me of your good wishes and assure you Mad[a]m there is no power in the world whose good wishes or good opinion I value more. Mr French who is equally concern[e]d with me wrot[e] when I was present and by my consent to Mrs Bonnell¹⁴¹ that we had no doubt of the truth of her debt and knew her and her c[h]aracter too well to put her to any difficulty about it. We will find out some way to justify us in paying the principal and in the meantime pay off the interest as it becomes due.

If you please madam to let Mrs Bonnell know I have given you this under my hand. I hope it will make her easy in this matter. Nothing can give Mrs Bonnell any trouble unless Mr Cunnigham¹⁴² has lodged the securitys in the hands of Mr John Maxwell¹⁴³ or some other person.

I am madam your most obliged and most obedient humble sarv[an]t, Thos Marlay.¹⁴⁴

[PS] I begg the ladys with you to accept of my most humble service.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

254. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 20 OCTOBER 1744

Yesterday I had my dear sisters of the 8[th] inst. I wrot[e] to you the 20[th] and the 25[th] in which [I] inclosed my Lord Chife Justiss Marleys¹⁴⁵ letter to me about your affairs. I wonder you did not mention it for he asked me about it.

I am trully sor[r]y for your great disorder in your eges.¹⁴⁶ I pray God to give you e[a]ses for it's a terable disorder. As to my theyes,¹⁴⁷ they ear tollarably well, some times when the skin cracks and there comes a littell running, then e[a]sey aga[i]ne. Soe I goe on. I wish to God you co[ul]d give as good an account of your legs. My legs I wash every night. I wear a great deall of flaning¹⁴⁸ about them, for some times they ear soe cold I can hardly bear it, but most have warm things put about them.

Frank Burton¹⁴⁹ came hear a Thursday morning and stayd till affter dinner yesterday. He is like his father but not soe well nor soe gentell,¹⁵⁰ but he is quite

¹⁴⁰ *Lege* scriptoire: see letter no. 252, note 125.

¹⁴¹ Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745).

¹⁴² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁴³ John Maxwell, lawyer: see letters nos 255, 263 and 288.

¹⁴⁴ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ *Lege* legs.

¹⁴⁷ *Lege* thighs.

¹⁴⁸ *Lege* flannel.

¹⁴⁹ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹⁵⁰ *Lege* genteel.

nacked,¹⁵¹ nather linnin nor close.¹⁵² They wo[ul]d not buy in England, they had spent soe much mon[e]y. He was soe unwilling to l[e]ave England that those gants¹⁵³ about was the only way to reconsill[e] him to come a way. I hope his governor will doe well enough, he [the governor] doth not want sences and [is] of a chirfull disposition and the boy seems fond of him. He cannot apply to any thing for an houre at a time and has soe bad or short a memarry¹⁵⁴ he doth not rem[e]mber what he was reeding. But I hope he will doe better in a littell time, for he is good natured and I think adviseable.

As to the Col[one]l,¹⁵⁵ I never h[e]ard from him sences but I had yesterday a letter from Nisbet¹⁵⁶ making a poor mouth about him. All his wives¹⁵⁷ fortune gone and still his deets¹⁵⁸ leys soe h[e]avey on him that he fears it will brack¹⁵⁹ his heart if some way be not fo[un]d out to reli[e]ve him from his meny defectullys,¹⁶⁰ to which let[t]er I shall give no answer.

Sister Jones and all fri[e]nds well. When you find writing tr[o]ubellsome I am sure your good fri[e]nd Mrs Bruce¹⁶¹ wo[ul]d writ[e] for you. My sarvices to her and beli[e]ve me my dear sister, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I writ[e] in a hurry.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

255. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 NOVEMBER 1744

By 4 packets that came in together I had 2 letters from my dear sister, I am glad your legs is better, I gave sister Jones hers and Frank Burton¹⁶² his. He came hear to see his sister Gore.¹⁶³ I sent my couch¹⁶⁴ for him and his father.¹⁶⁵ He crayd¹⁶⁶ sadly when they met and they ear very fond [of each other]. They went all to Dublin yesterday, come back tomorrow. When they return to Dublin, I shall.

As to the expences I cannot tell, all that I hear is e[a]che of the gentellmans expences was more then his and his tuters.¹⁶⁷ He has made up 7 or 8 new shirts and

¹⁵¹ *Lege* naked.

¹⁵² *Lege* clothes.

¹⁵³ *Lege* jaunts.

¹⁵⁴ *Lege* memory.

¹⁵⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81)

¹⁵⁶ Probably Albert Nesbitt, London merchant and banker: see letter no. 253, note 139.

¹⁵⁷ Ellen Conyngham (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816).

¹⁵⁸ *Lege* debts.

¹⁵⁹ *Lege* break.

¹⁶⁰ *Lege* difficulties.

¹⁶¹ Jane Bonnell's friend and neighbour in London.

¹⁶² Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹⁶³ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

¹⁶⁴ *Lege* coach.

¹⁶⁵ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁶⁶ *Lege* cried.

¹⁶⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton's tutor: see letter no. 244, note 49.

has above 2 duson¹⁶⁸ good wans. He is very sivell and good natured and I hope in God he will make a good man. His tutter seems to be a good man, no sort of ffopery and very sivell and chirfull.

When I see Lord Chi[e]f Justices¹⁶⁹ I will tell him your desire.

I inclose you a bill of thurty¹⁷⁰ five po[u]nd for your self and a g[u]iney for Willy Burton,¹⁷¹ half a wan you advanced him for me and the other half to give him when you see him. As to askeing Mr Maxwell,¹⁷² I cannot tell how that can be done. He is such a rog[u]e in all his actions I never see him. Parhaps if you wo[ul]d writ[e] to Mr Holt¹⁷³ the clargy man, he co[ul]d doe some thing in it. But sences poor Mr Manley¹⁷⁴ dyed I never see him.

There is a pention¹⁷⁵ of [£]200 a year to Mrs Sandy Nisbet,¹⁷⁶ but as she is not mentioned I know not what he will allow his mother. I have taken great p[ai]nes and tr[o]uble and has noe thanks from e[i]ther, soe I am resolved to give my self no further tr[o]uble.

If I have not answ[e]red all your letters I have not time to say more. Sister Jones will writ[e] so[o]ne to you. She fancys if any body can give you any account of those papers it may be wan Mr Gab Jonston¹⁷⁷ that had all Willi[am]s Conynghams¹⁷⁸ papers in his hands, and ness Conyngham can know that from him, he being in London.

I can add no more but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

256. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 23 NOVEMBER 1744

Dear Madam,

With great ple[a]sure this day I had 3 obliging letters from you and 2 from my dear Kety¹⁷⁹ and wan from London of the 15[th] from Mr Conolly¹⁸⁰ just affter he got there, which I take as a great favour. 6 packets cume in together and [th]en we have had nothing but contrey¹⁸¹ winds, it's a wonder how they got in. I wish you and your girills¹⁸² wear safe in London.

¹⁶⁸ *Lege* dozen.

¹⁶⁹ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

¹⁷⁰ *Lege* thirty.

¹⁷¹ William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁷² John Maxwell, lawyer: see letters nos 253, 263, and 288.

¹⁷³ Unidentified.

¹⁷⁴ Isaac Manley, postmaster general, 1703–35; MP: see letter no. 11, note 84.

¹⁷⁵ *Lege* pension.

¹⁷⁶ Possibly the unknown wife of Alexander Nesbitt, son of Alexander Nesbitt of Woodhall, Co. Donegal and his wife Alice (*née* Conyngham), Katherine's aunt.

¹⁷⁷ Gabriel Johnston, lawyer: see letter no. 263.

¹⁷⁸ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

¹⁷⁹ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

¹⁸⁰ William Conolly (1706–1754).

¹⁸¹ *Lege* contrary

¹⁸² Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–1799), Anne, Lucy (b. 1740), Harriet (1744–71) Conolly, daughters of Lady Anne (1714–97) and William Conolly (1706–54).

Lady Gore¹⁸³ came hear about a fortnight a goe very ill with a vallahet¹⁸⁴ cough which she got on her j[o]urney. She was 12 days on the road lying¹⁸⁵ at severall plassis¹⁸⁶ and in strang[e] beds. I think she is better and goes to Dublin a Satterday. I think to goe e[i]ther Monday or Tu[e]sday and had gone so[o]nner but on her account. I have now a housefull of young lads, she is the eldest of 4 of them and 3 of there gov[e]rners soe I doe not want noyes¹⁸⁷ enough. Frank Burton¹⁸⁸ is as us[u]ell a good boy but will never come up to his good father in any thing, but he is very young.

Pray take care of Ketys and my tickets.¹⁸⁹ As so[o]ne as I hear you ear in London I will send you the mon[e]y you lay out for us. Tell me how much it is. I will writ[e] to Kety nixt post but but I keep wan [person] to take this to Dublin, soe pardon if I have not time to say all I have a mind to say to my d[ea]r Lady Ann, but you ear soe good to me as to forgive me. I being in great heast but in all places and in all condition, I am d[ea]r madam, with great truth, your ever affect[ionate] a[u]nt and most humbl[e] ser[van]t, Ka Conolly

[PS] Pardon this paper, my love to Kety and all yours.

IAA, Castletown Papers, A/9

257. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO JANE BONNELL, 27 NOVEMBER 1744

Six packets came in together last Thursday and wan yesterday and not a line from my dear sister by any of them which you may be sure makes me very une[a]sey for fear you sho[ul]d be worse then when you wrot[e] last. The 10th I sent you a bill inclosed to Mr Nisbet for thirty six po[u]nd, 35 to your self, the rest to Willy Burton.¹⁹⁰

Lady Gore¹⁹¹ and your nephew Frank¹⁹² is hear. I much fear nothing will be made of him, no sort of applucation to any thing and no sort of memery, only the devartions of England. They l[e]ave me this day and I shall goe to [Dublin] [to]morrow, and if her cough be worse I'll come back emedetly.¹⁹³

I sent our nephew the Col[one]l¹⁹⁴ a shut¹⁹⁵ of very fine damask linnin with my arms and crest, and wrot[e] to him it was a present for his lady.¹⁹⁶ Its above a month

¹⁸³ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

¹⁸⁴ *Lege* violent

¹⁸⁵ *Lege* lying.

¹⁸⁶ *Lege* places.

¹⁸⁷ *Lege* noise.

¹⁸⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87), son of Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

¹⁸⁹ Probably referring to lottery tickets.

¹⁹⁰ William Burton (1733–96).

¹⁹¹ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

¹⁹² Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹⁹³ *Lege* immediately.

¹⁹⁴ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

¹⁹⁵ *Lege* suit.

¹⁹⁶ Ellen Conyngham (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816).

a goe but not a word sences. There is nothing settled yet what allowance[e]s Lord Chanc[el]ler¹⁹⁷ will think fit to allow Frank.¹⁹⁸ The j[o]urney from England I hear came to five hundred po[u]nd. I am sure its more then will be allowed him a year. The esteat will not bare more.

For fear this sho[ul]d not r[e]ach you, for I most sopose both your letters and mine has misscarryed, but most again tell you I long much to hear from you.

Sister Jones [is] well, Miss Jones¹⁹⁹ is in the small pox but doth very well. She is a very fine girill. The other 3²⁰⁰ have not takin it. I wish it was well over with them. Sad we[a]ther still and I am soe cold I can say no more [than] I am most affectionatly my dear sister, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

258. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 11 DECEMBER 1744

Last night I had a letter of the 3[r]d from my dear sister which was extr[e]amly wellcome for I had not a line from you senas the 10[th] or 12[th] of Oct[o]b[er] which I answe[r]ed the 20[th] to Mr Nisbet, and in that told you I wo[ul]d writ[e] no more till No[vem]b[er]; that I wo[ul]d send you your bill, which I did the tenth of No[vem]b[er], and sent you a bill of thurty six po[u]nd – [£]35 for your self and the twenty shilin[ng]s for Willey Burton.²⁰¹ In not hearing from you after that I wrot[e] the 27[th] and senas that the 4[th] or 5[th] of this month. The tow last was inclosed to Mr Conolly,²⁰² the letter in the bill was inclosed to Mr Nisbet, and its odd that non[e] of these letters sho[ul]d yet com[e] to your hands.

I am sor[r]y for the bad account of your health. I thank God I am prity well and I think my theyes is well and no cracks nor any run[n]ing these 2 months.

As to your affears, sister Jones has sent 20 times to Mr Ned Mathews²⁰³ and Raph Samson²⁰⁴ has bine severall times to see him, but not finding him [he] went into the Courts but did not met him.

My Lord Chife Justiss²⁰⁵ and Mr French²⁰⁶ has given Mr Whit²⁰⁷ an order to pay your int[e]rest which sister Jones wrot[e] and last Satterday sent to Mr Whit. When she gets his answer [she] will writ[e] to you. This is all I can tell you about your

¹⁹⁷ As their father Francis (Frank) Burton was dead and the children were minors, the estates of Francis Pierpont Burton and his brother William Burton were placed in 'trust'. Following consideration of their circumstances, the lord chancellor then dictated the financial arrangements concerning their maintenance considered most beneficial for their futures.

¹⁹⁸ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

¹⁹⁹ Probably referring to Kitty Jones (b. 1740) daughter of Elenor and Roger Jones (d. 1747).

²⁰⁰ Richard (1735–90) and two other unknown children of Elenor and Roger Jones.

²⁰¹ William Burton (1733–96): see letter no. 257, note 197.

²⁰² William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁰³ A lawyer acting on behalf of Jane Bonnell.

²⁰⁴ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

²⁰⁵ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

²⁰⁶ Robert French, Jane Bonnell's legal counsel: NLI, MS 41,579/7 and NLI, MS 41,580/5.

²⁰⁷ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 241, note 1.

affairs. I wish I co[ul]d say something with more cartanty of them. As for Col[one]l Conyngham,²⁰⁸ I know nothing of him nor from him.

As to Frank Burton, I think he is still in an unfixed way. The Chancery has ord[e]red five hondred a year for his mentances.²⁰⁹ He thinks it is not enough but its as much as the esteat will bear. He says he has wrot[e] twist to you sences he came hear. Dublin is a bad place for him for [manuscript illegible] in to all devartions. I am sor[r]y for him and prayes God he may doe well.

I inclose this to my dear Kety Conolly²¹⁰ and gives her a charg[e] to get it franked and sent to the post which I am sure she will doe very car[e]fully. Soe I will say no more but I cannot say Lady Gore²¹¹ is breeding. She is very well and her cough gone but as she never has bine reg[ul]er, its hard to say how its with her.

Writ[e] so[o]ne and beli[e]ve me allways, my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

259. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 15 DECEMBER 1744

About an heure agoe I had my dear sisters of the 5th telling me that mine of the 10th with the 35 po[u]nd bill was not com[e] to you. In my list of letters is these words: November 10th to Mrs Bonnall, a bill for 36 po[u]nd inclosed to Mr Nisbet,²¹² London. These ear the words in my list of letters for I never writ[e] to you but I put down who your letters is inclosed to. I shall be une[a]sey till I hear again about [you], and as you have wrot[e] to Mr Nisbet I hope you will have an account before this comes to your hands.

L[or]d Chanc[el]ler has given Frank Burton²¹³ [£]500 a year allowances for masters and every thing, which is enough if well maniged. He loves every thing better than what he sho[ul]d love, but I hope he will doe better. He is indollant and loves run[n]ing in to all publick places, he knows more p[e]opell there [than] I doe hear. I tell him its wrang,²¹⁴ for he most some times fall into bad compeny that may bring him into a scrap he will never get the better off.

You say you co[ul]d writ[e] noe more you wear soe ill. That will add to my desire of hearing from you. All fri[e]nds is well, I heart[i]ly wish I co[ul]d hear the same of you. God send me good account of your health is much longed for by my dear sisters, ever affectionate, Ka; Conolly

[PS] If I did not writ[e] about jacklet pray bespake a hondred[weight] for me so[o]ne.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

²⁰⁸ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁰⁹ Referring to the maintenance and guardianship of Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87): see letter no. 254, note 197.

²¹⁰ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

²¹¹ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

²¹² See letter no. 257.

²¹³ Referring to the guardianship of Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87): see letter no. 254, note 197.

²¹⁴ *Lege* wrong.

260. TO JANE BONNELL [FRAGMENT, NO PLACE OR DATE]

... forty po[u]nd for you[r] quarter [allowance], forty shillin[g]s for the assis milk. I am glad you have got the triflin [?] box with the di[a]per and bit of linnin, it was sent with a linnin drapers linin, derected for you. As to the jacklet, I am in noe want of it. If there comes in no vennels²¹⁵ you most get the best you can, tho[ugh] deer.

Now I most tell you a sort of an accidant happ[e]ned to me last Friday morning. I was sit[t]ing very quiet, my noss²¹⁶ fell a ble[e]ding in a most prodiguss manner. They sent for a docter, surg[e]on and my apottgary.²¹⁷ I wo[ul]d not let it be stop[p]ed. They computed it bledded 6 or 7 ounas²¹⁸ and nixt day at the same houre it bleed again, but not above an ounce[s], [and] not senas. I am better senas, for I had a great he[a]veyness opon me for some time before. I most not writ[e] much, this is the forst time I held a pen in my hand senas.

Sister Jones and all fri[e]nds well. I know you will excuse a short letter now when I tell you the re[a]son, but I wo[ul]d delay your bill no longer soe shall only as[s]ure you I am with true love and sencrr²¹⁹ affaction yours, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/18

261. KATHERINE CONOLLY, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 JANUARY 1744[/45]

This comes to wish my dear sister meny years of health which is the greatest blessing this world can afford. I had yours by the packets that came the 28[th], yours was the 17th. You surprise me much at the account you give of our new married relevation.²²⁰ I hope it is not the trueth; pray find out all you can of it for it is a most mallancholly thing. I thought the expation²²¹ of mere fortune wo[ul]d have made him wiser, for that is what he has most at heart. I shall be une[a]sey till I hear again from you of this matter.

I cannot immagin what comes of your letters for I am sure you sho[ul]d have got severall before the deat²²² of yours. I told you in my last that when her²²³ couch²²⁴ was at the door to come hear she was taken ill and is not come nor goes down stayers, tho[ugh] as well and full of spirits as she ever was. The docters thinks she may be with child. I wish she be tho[ugh] I fear it, for nather before nor senas her

²¹⁵ *Lege* vanilla.

²¹⁶ *Lege* nose.

²¹⁷ *Lege* apothecary.

²¹⁸ *Lege* ounces.

²¹⁹ *Lege* sincere.

²²⁰ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) married Ellen Merrett (1724–1816), daughter of Solomon Merrett, of Hart Street, London and his wife Rebecca (*née* Savage), in September 1744: NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,579/4–5; GEC.

²²¹ *Lege* expectation.

²²² *Lege* date.

²²³ Refers to Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45) who married Sir St George Gore (1722–46) of Manor Gore, Co. Donegal in September 1743. The context of this section is confusing.

²²⁴ *Lege* coach.

marri[a]ge she has never bine what you may call reguluer,²²⁵ soe its hard to say what calls²²⁶ her.

I brought Frank and his gov[e]rner²²⁷ hear with me and I most say the gentellman that is with him has taken p[a]ines to instruct him in the principells of his religion which he knew nothing off. But [he] was very willing to be instructed and he desired he might receive the scaramont which he did. He is good natured but very h[e]avey and dull. A vast stomock; grows most monst[e]r[o]usly fat. I doe all I can to crub²²⁸ him in his eating. He has ride[n] [e]very day senas he came hear. I have meny, meny more letters to writ[e] today so can say noe more but that I am most affactionatly my dear sisters, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Had you mine about the jacklet? I wrot[e] twist to you about it, I find my letters offten miscar[r]ys.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

262. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 10 JANUARY 1744/[45]

I had my dear sisters of the 26[th] 2 post[s] agoe but as I have meny letters constantly on my hands I can not answer all letters in time. Yours was [a] long [time] a comeing, it came with 3 packets. I wrot[e] to you the forst of this month inclosed to Mr Conolly.²²⁹ I am pl[e]ased at Willy Burtons²³⁰ obbsarvaton about my [?], I hope it is soe.

If you hear any thing more about what you wanst mentioned about a relevation of ours²³¹ let me know. I saw Mr Richison²³² thats just landed. He says there never was soe fond a coppell,²³³ she, he says, doots²³⁴ on him.

As to Frank B[urton],²³⁵ all I can say [is] I wish he was out of this town for he knows more p[e]opell hear then I doe. His garduan²³⁶ thinks of sending him to Genneve²³⁷ nixt summer as the soberest part of the world and whear there is a great deall of good compeny and all sorts of devartions in a sobber way – fishing, fowlling and hunting wanst or twist a wick, riding, fencing and dancing. If he can be sent there it's the only thing can be done with him. This is now thought off and I hope will be brought about.

²²⁵ Menstruating regularly.

²²⁶ *Lege* ails.

²²⁷ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87) and his tutor.

²²⁸ *Lege* curb.

²²⁹ William Conolly (1706–54).

²³⁰ William Burton (1733–96).

²³¹ Referring to the recent marriage of Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and Ellen Merrett (1724–1816): see letter no. 261, note 220.

²³² John Richardson (1663–1744), lawyer.

²³³ Henry (Harry) (1707–81) and Ellen (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816) Conyngham.

²³⁴ *Lege* dotes.

²³⁵ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

²³⁶ *Lege* guardian.

²³⁷ *Lege* Geneva, Switzerland.

I am soe full of compeny I can say noe more but my sarvice to Mrs Bruce²³⁸ and bel[e]ve me to be my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

[PS] have you done anything about my jacklet?

NLI, MS 41,578/17

263. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 17 JANUARY 1744[/45]

I had my dear sisters of the 4th last packets and has littell to say haveing wrot[e] to you the 8[th], and my sister Jones has wrot[e] to you the day I had yours. I sent to her to know if she wrot[e] that post for she had a sore thro[a]t and did not fare²³⁹ out that day. Inclosed is what she sent me, which is I bel[e]ve what she wrot[e] to you. I heart[i]ly wish you had done with this affear and that the Ccol[onel]²⁴⁰ wo[ul]d consider his one²⁴¹ int[e]rest soe much as to settell your affear, for I am sure its not for his credit to delay it. But at this time he can think of nothing but his election,²⁴² which I heartly wish he may carry in the House of Commons.

There is wan thing I most aske my dear sister: the other day talking to Frank Burton²⁴³ I asked him if he was ever interdused to the King²⁴⁴ or any of the Royall famally. He sayd he was not. That Mr Brudnall²⁴⁵ had offered to interduse him but he had wrot[e] to him not to be interdused. Opon his telling Mr Brudnall this he did not, as his father was known at Court. I think this a strang[e] thing, that a prottestant gentellman of famally sho[ul]d not have bine presented to a prottastant Royal ffamally. This did surprise me which makes me aske the question, for it co[ul]d be no expenc,²⁴⁶ he being in m[o]urning.

I saw Lord Chife Justis Marley²⁴⁷ this minnet and he says he bid my sister Jones writ[e] what I have inclosed. My hand is very wack²⁴⁸ with the frost these 2 or 3 days soe I can say no more, but that I am my dear sisters ever affectionate, Ka: Conolly

²³⁸ Mrs Bruce, a friend and neighbour of Jane Bonnell's in London: see letter no. 222, note 554.

²³⁹ *Lege* go.

²⁴⁰ Referring to the dispute between Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and his aunt Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) concerning a mortgage she held on the Conyngham's Co. Donegal estate.

²⁴¹ *Lege* own.

²⁴² Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) stood unsuccessfully for election to the British House of Commons as a government candidate for Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire: *HoP: 1715–54* (London, 1970).

²⁴³ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

²⁴⁴ George II (1683–1760).

²⁴⁵ Very likely a reference to George Brudenell (Montagu) (1712–90), who succeeded as 4th earl of Cardigan in 1732; in 1730 he married Lady Mary Montagu (1710/11–1775), daughter and coheir of John Montagu (d. 1749), 2nd duke of Montagu. On his father-in-law's death in July 1749 he assumed the name and coat of arms of Montagu, although the Montagu dukedom became extinct. However, in 1766 he was created duke of Montagu of the second creation. Montagu enjoyed a long career at court: *ODNB*.

²⁴⁶ *Lege* expense.

²⁴⁷ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

²⁴⁸ *Lege* weak.

[PS] Did you ever writ[e] to Mr Holt²⁴⁹ to make some inquiry of Mr Maxwell²⁵⁰ about your securitys, or writ[e] to ni[e]ce Conyngham to sp[e]ake to Mr Gabey Jonston²⁵¹ how²⁵² was wanst poor Williams Conyngham²⁵³ sool²⁵⁴ adviser and maniger, and has offten seen all his papers.

[Enclosed fragment in Mary Jones's hand] I am writing to my sister about her money for my Lord Chife Justis was with me. If she cant find her securittys she must file a bill against them which will meet with no [opposition] from him.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

264. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 7 FEBRUARY 1744[/45]

I had my dear sisters of the 16[th] of Jenry²⁵⁵ yesterday with seven packets [that] came in together. I was glad to hear from you for I longed to hear how this sevear we[a]ther did with you. I am sure it doth not agree with me for I have now a very sevear cold with a whisking²⁵⁶ that hinders me from sleeping. I am tol[e]rable well all day, how ever I thank God I am eseyer²⁵⁷ now then I have bine and hopes the worst is over.

I am sor[r]y your affears is still in such an unsettled way. My sister²⁵⁸ sho[we]d me a skich²⁵⁹ of your case with Sir Robt King.²⁶⁰ I can as[s]ure you when it [is] put in form you will have all things done by the exe[cu]t[o]rs. I wish your affair with the Col[one]l²⁶¹ was in as good [a] way as that will so[o]ne be. I am trully sor[r]y he has lost his election for it most be very expensive, and as I hear, a thousand po[u]nd will not clire²⁶² the expencise. I have sent my Lord Chife Justis²⁶³ a noat to sp[e]ake to Whit²⁶⁴ and to the Master in Chancery²⁶⁵ to make what dispa[t]ch he can with the

²⁴⁹ Unidentified.

²⁵⁰ Possibly referring to John Maxwell, lawyer: see letters nos 253, 255 and 288 below.

²⁵¹ Gabriel Johnston, a lawyer acting on behalf of Constance Conyngham (*née* Middleton) (1698–1767) in her dispute with Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81): see letter no. 182. Williams Conyngham left 'my good friend' Gab. Johnston £300 in his will: NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,569/5.

²⁵² *Recte* who.

²⁵³ Williams Conyngham (1698–1738).

²⁵⁴ *Lege* sole.

²⁵⁵ *Lege* January.

²⁵⁶ *Lege* wheezing.

²⁵⁷ *Lege* easier.

²⁵⁸ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

²⁵⁹ *Lege* sketch.

²⁶⁰ See letter no. 160.

²⁶¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

²⁶² *Lege* clear.

²⁶³ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

²⁶⁴ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 241, note 1.

²⁶⁵ Referring to the office of master of the rolls in Ireland, who in effect acted as assistant lord chancellor.

accounts. Sister Jones and Mr Samson²⁶⁶ will press Mr Mathews,²⁶⁷ for except the days he came hear to tell me you had got a decree,²⁶⁸ I have not seen him these ten years tho[ugh] I have sent often to him.

Pray make my complem[en]ts to neices Conyngham, I think her a most valluable woman. I rejoyes Willey Burton²⁶⁹ is soe good a boy, God keep him and make him a good man. I cannot say much about Frank.²⁷⁰ He is now ent[e]red in the riding house and to l[e]arn to fence [and] exersisis that I hope will bring down his fat. He has a great stomack, I quarrall every day about it. He has got a lodging very neer this and as yet he brackfasts, dines, and supse hear. He is very lasey and indelant,²⁷¹ wo[ul]d set²⁷² the whole day in a great ch[a]ire.

I have inclosed you a bill for 34 g[u]ineys which is [£]35–14 shillin[g]s, the 35 po[u]nd for your self and the 14 shillin[g]s for Willey Burton. You may give it [to] him e[i]ther at wanst or trust as you think proper. I have more letters to writ[e] soe most conclude when I as[s]ure my dear sister that I am most affectionatly yours,
Ka: Conolly

[PS] Sister Jones bids me tell you she has sent severall times for Mr Mathews but Mr Sam[p]son says he will find him out if possible, and then they will writ[e] to you.

NLI, MS 41,578/17

265. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY,²⁷³ 9 FEBRUARY 1744

Dear Lady Ann

I had the ple[a]sure of yours of the 15[th] by the seven packets that came in together and wo[ul]d have wrot[e] to you that past but as I had 2 letters from your daughter Kety²⁷⁴ [I] answered them forst, she and I haveing some affears to transact with her. I hope you will excuse me for writing forst to her and that you will be soe good to give her the ten po[u]nd 8 shillin[g] you had for the blanks. Tell her I mentioned to her 3 fans and senas that I fo[u]nd a new fane²⁷⁵ I had for got, soe 2 fanes is enough to send me, let them I pray you be her one²⁷⁶ fancy. She need not exceed ten or 12 shillin[g]s a piss, as much ch[e]aper as she pl[e]ases.

We ear still in a bad way in Dublin with under watter.²⁷⁷ I am sure at least 40 houses has wather when wan has not, of which number I am safe, which I think a

²⁶⁶ Ralph Sampson (1693–1763).

²⁶⁷ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

²⁶⁸ *Lege* decree.

²⁶⁹ William Burton (1733–96).

²⁷⁰ Francis Pierpont Burton (1721–87).

²⁷¹ *Lege* indolent.

²⁷² *Recte* sit.

²⁷³ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97)

²⁷⁴ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

²⁷⁵ *Lege* fan.

²⁷⁶ *Lege* own.

²⁷⁷ *Lege* flooding.

gre[a]t hap[p]yness. I have had wan of the worst colds I have these seven years. I got some sle[e]p last night and am much bether.

Last night young Mrs Gardiner²⁷⁸ was brought to bed of a son to the great joy of all the famally. She went soe past her rec[on]king they wear all une[a]sey about it, but all is well. Lady Gore²⁷⁹ is still at Bushops Court,²⁸⁰ they come back a Monday. Mr Nickells²⁸¹ tells me he never saw childrin so improved as yours at Strutan,²⁸² espshely master.²⁸³ He thinkes prity Harriet²⁸⁴ not soe well as being too costive, but he says what he has ord[e]red for her he hopes will be of sarvices to her. I h[e]ard from your son by the packets, [he is] mighty well and hap[p]y. He says in all his life he never had soe good a time as in the hollydays, but [now] his papa²⁸⁵ is gone and his play fellows gone to scoull and he to his book again.

The 31[st] of last month I wrot[e] a long tr[o]ublsome letter to you about a pict[u]er of poor Mr Burton,²⁸⁶ I hope you have got it. I know no body in the world soe capable of maniging such a thing as your ladyship for no body can have a better fancy in all these things than you.

I am soe cold I can not writ[e] as much as I wish to doe when I am writing to you. My tennet Mr Bally²⁸⁷ at Cellbridg[e] beg[e]d me to send this inclosed paper to Mr Conolly²⁸⁸ which pray give him for I know nothing of the matter.

My Lady Santery²⁸⁹ is very well and does me the faveur to be hear every day with the rest of my drowned n[e]ighboors that is not yet quit[e] drey.²⁹⁰ It will kill half the town for they ear all ill with colds. She tells me Miss Kettin²⁹¹ is some thing better but does not mention coming to Dublin. Poor Lady Santery is in tr[o]uble for

²⁷⁸ Florinda Gardiner (*née* Norman) (b. 1722), who married Charles Gardiner, son of Luke Gardiner and Anne Stewart on 20 March 1741. Their children were Florinda (d. 1830), Luke (1745–98), 1st Viscount Mountjoy, and Anne (1746–1829).

²⁷⁹ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45), daughter of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, married Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46) of Manor Gore, Co. Donegal in 1743.

²⁸⁰ An estate in Co. Kildare once held by the bishops of Kildare.

²⁸¹ Possibly referring to Dr John Nichols (d. 1767) who married a daughter of Dr Proby (1661–1729), and who succeeded him as first surgeon in Dr Steevens' Hospital.

²⁸² Stretton Hall, Stretton, Penkridge, Staffordshire, the Conolly family's English residence.

²⁸³ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803): see letter no. 151, note 423.

²⁸⁴ Harriett Conolly (1744–71), daughter of William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97). She married John Staples (1734–1820).

²⁸⁵ William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁸⁶ Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744).

²⁸⁷ Robert Baillie was a neighbour of William and Katherine Conolly in Capel Street, Dublin, where Baillie had an upholstery business in Abbey Street. He rented property from William Conolly in Celbridge, Co. Kildare in 1718 and built his residence there, Kildrought House. When Katherine Conolly died in 1752 she left Baillie's wife Williamina Katherina Finney, the daughter of her Celbridge agent, a legacy of £150: Jimmy O'Toole, *The Carlow gentry* (Carlow, 1993).

²⁸⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

²⁸⁹ Bridget (*née* Domville) (d. 1750), only daughter of Sir Thomas Domville (1650–1721), who married Henry Barry (1680–1735), 3rd Baron Barry of Santry, in 1702.

²⁹⁰ *Lege* dry.

²⁹¹ Possibly Thomas Pearson's (1678–1736) niece.

her sisters²⁹² children, her tow boys²⁹³ is in the small pox, wan they think past danger.

The yatch²⁹⁴ not yet come in. Mr Clemons²⁹⁵ says he will goe in [the] Chester ship as with Lady St Leger.²⁹⁶ Lord and Lady Buttefent²⁹⁷ will goe when they can.

I shall tr[o]uble you my dear madam no further at present for really my cold makes me soe dull and he[a]vey (tho[ugh] some what better) that I know not what I writ[e], but well or ill I know I am with sencere truth my dear Lady Ann Conolly's ever affectionate a[u]nt and humbl[e] sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My sarvices to Mr Conolly and your 2 daughters,²⁹⁸ God bless them all. My dear Kety, I love you better then any child in the world. K: C:

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

266. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 26 FEBRUARY 1744[/45]

I had a letter from my dear sister of the 7th inst. I have very littell to say for I wrot[e] to you the 7th and sent you a bill for [£]35–14–00 franked by Mr Conolly.²⁹⁹ I hope its come safe to you before this. My sister Jones has bine, wrot[e], went and sent to Mr Mathews³⁰⁰ 3 or 4 times last wick, he has nather come nor answ[e]red her letter. Lord Chife Justics³⁰¹ desired her to desire Mr Mathews to dine with him and he sho[ul]d see and look over all the wills and papers that he has belonging to Sir Rob[er]t, Sir John, and Sir Hary Kings³⁰² famally, but yesterday he had not bine there. I think he and Mr Whit³⁰³ plays in to wan anothers hands. Sister Jones will not writ[e] till she can say some thing to the purposss.

We had yesterday a great deall of snow; it was hard frost for 3 or 4 days before, mighty sharp and cold as in the great frost and now its fressing³⁰⁴ very hard. The poor every whear is much distressed espechally in the north. The summer was soe bad they co[ul]d not get in there turfe, but the rich was in the same condition as to there turfe and severall famallys is come to Dublin for want [of] fireing.³⁰⁵ Severall ships is gone to De[r]ry from this and Scotland with corn which they wanted very much. This is a very bad account I have given you of the co[u]ntery.

²⁹² Elizabeth Domvile (c. 1700–74) who married Admiral Christopher Pocklington (d. 1766).

²⁹³ Charles Domvile Pocklington (c. 1739–c. 1810), and an unknown child, the sons of Admiral Christopher and Elizabeth Pocklington (née Domvile).

²⁹⁴ *Lege* yacht.

²⁹⁵ Probably Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) who married Hannah Gore (1705–81) in 1729.

²⁹⁶ Mary Barry, daughter of Redmond Barry, married St Leger St Leger, 1st Viscount Doneraile (d. 1787).

²⁹⁷ James Barry, 5th earl of Barrymore (1717–51), married Lady Margaret Davys (d. 1788) in 1738. She was the sister and co-heiress of Edward Davys, 3rd Viscount Mountcashell.

²⁹⁸ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71) and Jane (*ante* 1736–1799) Conolly.

²⁹⁹ William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁰⁰ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142, note 344.

³⁰¹ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

³⁰² Referring to Jane Bonnell's dispute with the King family; see introduction, footnote 50, and letter no. 160.

³⁰³ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 241, note 1.

³⁰⁴ *Lege* freezing.

³⁰⁵ Wood for the fire to generate heat.

I had a letter from Col[one]l Conyngham³⁰⁶ compla[i]ning of the most villoness³⁰⁷ treatment he met with in his election³⁰⁸ and that as so[o]ne as he can settell all his affears with his credditers he will come for Ierland and never leave it. All the bad visige³⁰⁹ he met with gave him great tr[o]jubell, but his poor littell wife's³¹⁰ illness and her miscarrying went soe neer his h[e]art that it has sunk his spirits to that degree he beli[e]ves he will never get the better of it. These ear his one³¹¹ words. If I can for cold I will writ[e] to him this day so shall say no more to my dear sister but to as[s]ure her I am most affectnatly hers, Ka: Conolly

NLI, MS 41,578/17

267. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO JANE BONNELL, 1 MARCH 1744[/45]

I had my dear sisters of the 21[st] yesterday and last night came in a packet of the 23[rd] by which I had noe letter, which both fright[en]s and tr[o]ubles me, for your account of your self gives me much tr[o]uble and consarn. I pray God my nixt account may give me the sattisfacton of hearing you ear better, which with that account wo[ul]d be a great comfort to sister Jones and me.

Lord Chife Justics Marley³¹² was with me when I had your letter and he sayd every thing sho[ul]d be done to your sattisfaction emedetly. He says he allsoe spoke to Mr Whit³¹³ about your affear and desired me to send to Mr Mathews³¹⁴ to com[e] to him and he sho[ul]d see all the settellm[en]ts belonging to the King³¹⁵ famally and what wills he had belonging to any of them. I sent to Mr Mathews to weat on him. He sent a boy to him for the settllm[en]ts. My lord³¹⁶ sent him word if it was the settellm[en]t of his one famally he wo[ul]d send it by that boy but he co[ul]d not trust that [document] out of his house, opon³¹⁷ which I sent ni[ce]s Samson³¹⁸ to him. She fo[un]d him very ill of a sore thro[a]t, all wrap[p]ed up in flan[n]ins, but he sayd, ill as he was he wo[ul]d goe as so[o]ne as possible. Sister Jones tells me that 800 po[u]nd of your de[b]t is in the Regesters offices.

³⁰⁶ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

³⁰⁷ *Lege* villainous.

³⁰⁸ Referring to Henry (Harry) Conyngham's (1707–81) unsuccessful election for Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire: see letter no. 263.

³⁰⁹ *Lege* usage.

³¹⁰ Ellen Conyngham (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816). On 12 February 1744[/45] Henry Conyngham wrote to his aunt Jane Bonnell about his disappointment at the recent elections where he had had a 'surfeit of mankind', adding that 'my wife has miscarry'd which has damped my spirits to such a degree that I am scarcely able to bear it.': Henry Conyngham to Jane Bonnell, 12 Feb. 1744[/45] (NLI, Smythe of Barbavilla papers, MS 41,579/5).

³¹¹ *Lege* own.

³¹² Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

³¹³ Henry White, a Dublin lawyer: see letter no. 241, note 1.

³¹⁴ Edward Matthews, lawyer: see letter no. 142.

³¹⁵ Referring to Jane Bonnell's dispute with the King family: see introduction, footnote 50, and letters nos 160 and 266.

³¹⁶ Thomas Marlay (Marley), lord chief justice.

³¹⁷ *Lege* upon.

³¹⁸ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (c. 1717–85).

This [is] all I can say at present. I wrot[e] to you last packet. I wish you may reed this for I will not say more but as[s]ure your self you have my prayers and best wishes, for I am my sisters most truly, your ever affectionate sister, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Sad, sad, cold we[a]ther

NLI, MS 41,578/17

**268. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 20 APRIL
1745**

Yesterday I had the ple[a]sure of my dear Lady Ann Conolly's obliging letter of the 3[rd] and am much [obliged] to you and Mr Conolly³¹⁹ for the consarn in the loss of a remarkable sister,³²⁰ but her bad health and hopes of her recovery made me rather wish death than to hear she lived in such misery with no hope of relief from all the medi[ca]tions she to[o]ke. God's will be done, for to His will I hope I shall allways submit.

I had the jewels reecat³²¹ inclose[d] in yours. I must again thank yo[u] for the tru[o]ble you have had about it and by the drafts you sent, it must be very prity and well done.

I pity you much for your want of my dear Kety's³²² sweet aggr[ee]able compeny. I can say with truth she never left me, e[i]ther here or in the co[u]ntery, but for a few days, so I cannot wonder than you ear in tr[o]uble at her l[e]aveing you.

As to Lord Killdear's³²³ going to be marryed to Lady Carraline Fitzroy,³²⁴ I never thought it likely. He sent his mother that paragraff, he cot it out of the newspaper. I wish he wear well mar[r]yed to his own and Lady Killdear's licking.³²⁵ Miss Keating³²⁶ has only 200 pound left her and tho[ugh] the day Mrs Westly³²⁷ dyed, much was sayd what should be done for her, now not a word more is sayd about it, no not so much as a m[o]urning given her that I hear off. Lady Buttifant³²⁸ was advising not to put on m[o]urning if they did not give it, which I think has bine wrang.

³¹⁹ William Conolly (1706–54).

³²⁰ Jane Bonnell (*née* Conyngham) born *c.* 1670, Katherine's sister and long-time correspondent, died in March 1745.

³²¹ *Lege* receipt.

³²² Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

³²³ Lt Gen. James Fitzgerald (1722–73), 20th earl of Kildare, was the son of Lady Mary Fitzgerald, countess of Kildare, daughter of William O'Brien, 3rd earl of Inchiquin, and Robert Fitzgerald, 19th earl of Kildare. He was created duke of Leinster in 1766: *DIB*.

³²⁴ Lady Caroline Fitzroy (1722–84), daughter of Charles Fitzroy, 2nd duke of Grafton, married General William Stanhope, 2nd earl of Harrington (1719–79) on 11 August 1746.

³²⁵ *Lege* liking.

³²⁶ The daughter of Thomas Pearson's (1678–1736) sister: see letter no. 130, note 209; and letter nos 276 and 277, notes 458 and 479.

³²⁷ Unidentified.

³²⁸ Lady Margaret Davys (d. 1788), sister and co-heiress of Edward Davys, 3rd Viscount Mountcashell, and second daughter of Paul Davys, 1st Viscount Mountcashell; Lady Margaret was married to James Barry, 5th earl of Barrymore (1717–51).

Poor Mr Magill's³²⁹ death is great loss to his co[u]ntery and famally. He has left a daughter, Lady [?]³³⁰ [who] is 4 months gone with child, I hope it will be a son.

Now there is 3 Knights of Shiris vacant, Down, Roscommon and Killdear.³³¹ Tell Mr Conolly all the answer I have given to Roscommon and Killdear [is]: what votes I have, I shall given them as he dow.

I am not soe well as that Docter Gratten³³² will let me goe into the co[u]ntery yet, tho[ugh] I shall be very glad to goe. I am some days prity well, then a low pulse. I am better off these 2 days past.

Tho[ugh] Mrs Gorge³³³ has not given her sister m[o]urning, I have given m[o]urning to some more than my famally, but it was those that co[ul]d not spear mon[e]y [manuscript damaged]. ... hear is such charity prays to be that I am brock³³⁴ with them.

My best love and sarvics attends Mr Conolly and your ladyship, than I am to you both with great truth, your affectionate aunt and most feathfull humble sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Pray send Col[one]l Conyngham's³³⁵ letter to him, its about a burgess for Newtown Limavady.³³⁶

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9/97/84

269. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 16 MAY 1745

Dearest Madam,

I want words to express my self to you for all your goodness in making soe many and constant inquireys affter my loss³³⁷ [which] you know is great, for my dear, dear, child was dearer to me than all the world. But God, who is the wise disposer of all things, has taken her out of a world full of tr[o]ubles whear noe true joys is to be fo[u]nd to a place of hap[p]yness, whear she is now in a steat of hap[p]yness, for ever bles[s]ed be his Holy name, for great is his march towards us. The Lord gave and the Lord taketh a way, for ever bles[s]ed be [h]is name. She was allways good and fit for

³²⁹ Possibly Robert Hawkins Magill (1704–45); high sheriff of Co. Down, 1732; MP for Co. Down, 1724–45; trustee of the Linen Board for Munster 1736–45; foundation member of the Dublin Society, 1731: *HIP*.

³³⁰ Possibly Theodosia Hawkins-Magill (1743–1817), later countess of Clanwilliam.

³³¹ This is a reference to three vacancies in the Irish parliament: Robert (Hawkins) Magill (1704–45), MP for Co. Down since 1724, died on 10 April 1745; Sir Edward Crofton (1713–45), MP for Co. Roscommon since 1735, died on 26 March 1745; and Richard Allen (d. 1745), MP for Co. Kildare since 1727, died on 14 April 1745: *HIP*.

³³² Dr James Grattan (d. 1747), fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, 1704: see letter no. 276, note 451.

³³³ Referring to circumstances surrounding the death of Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45).

³³⁴ *Lege* broke.

³³⁵ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

³³⁶ Referring to a recommendation for a new burgess at Newtown Limavady, control of which was somewhat contested between the Conollys and the Conynghams following the death of William Conolly (1662–1729).

³³⁷ Referring to the death of her niece and ward, Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45).

that pleas³³⁸ she is gone too. We give for our selves and not for her. I pray to my good God for submission³³⁹ to his will, which I trust in his marcy he will grant me.

Indeed dear madam, I am not well, nor has not bine for a long time before I h[e]ard of my dear child's death, [a] very bad stomack and a very bad sleeper. I had a cough, but that is prity well over. I drink assis milk, takes the ear every day for this fortnight or 3 wicks past. I am, as both my docters says better a sicking and lowness of spirits, but I hope time will doe me good – the will of God, not mine, be done. I aske your pardon dear Lady Ann for writing in his mallancolly stille to you, but I as[s]ure you I doe all I can to get up my spirits.

I have some joy to hear poor dear Sir St Gorge³⁴⁰ is in a fear³⁴¹ way of recovering that dismall distemper. He is a most mallancolly cr[e]ature, never was there a more trully hap[p]y copell. You have my prayers. You may never know the sorrow we feel. I have wrot[e] a few lines to my dear Kety.³⁴² I love her and prayes God to bless her. I beg my love and best wishes may ever attend my dear Mr Conolly³⁴³ for his good nature makes him soe much consarned for my loss for which I thank him. I inclose you a letter to Kety and if you think it proper send it. I long to hear of master,³⁴⁴ how he likes London and whear he is to goe to scoull.³⁴⁵ God bless him. I can add noe more but to as[s]ure you I love and este[e]me you and am, my dear good Lady Ann, your ever affactionate a[u]nt and most feathfull humble sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I am in much tr[o]uble by this days post to hear of poor Hary Clemons³⁴⁶ death who I loved very well. Every day brings me new tr[o]ubles, God ke[e]p me. Adew dear Madam.

IAA, Castletown Papers, A/9

270. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 18 MAY 1745

Dear Madam

I wo[ul]d not tr[o]uble you soe so[o]ne again with my scrualls³⁴⁷ but at the desire of my good fri[e]nd the ArchBishop of Cashell³⁴⁸ who last post desired I wo[ul]d send the included³⁴⁹ to your ladyship,³⁵⁰ but weating for his letter I did not send mine to the post offices till ten a clock, and at a [e]leven he sent [his], but then I co[ul]d not

³³⁸ *Lege* place.

³³⁹ *Lege* submission.

³⁴⁰ Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46), 5th bt.

³⁴¹ *Lege* fair.

³⁴² Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

³⁴³ William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁴⁴ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803): see letter no. 151, note 425.

³⁴⁵ *Lege* school.

³⁴⁶ Col Henry (Harry) Clements (1704–45), MP for Cavan borough: see letter no. 90, note 367.

³⁴⁷ *Lege* scrawls.

³⁴⁸ Arthur Price (1678–1752), Church of Ireland archbishop of Cashel, 1744–52; he was William Conolly's chaplain and in 1724 built Celbridge House, latterly known as Oakley Park: *DIB*.

³⁴⁹ *Lege* inclosed.

³⁵⁰ Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

inclose it. He is very good and kind to me and I know that is indusem[en]t enough to you to doe him any sarvices you can.

In my life I never saw nor h[e]ard such a day for r[a]ine and wind as last Thursday was. We have sad and dismall accounts from our army, God comfort them that has laft there fri[e]nds. I gri[e]ve for Hary Clemons³⁵¹ and severall other fri[e]nds and relocations. I pray God prasarve you and yours. Love and best wishes to Mr Conolly³⁵² and beli[e]ve me dear Lady Ann, I love and esteem you very much for I am, with gre[a]t truth, your ever affectionate a[un]t and feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

271. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 1 JUNE 1745

I had my dear Lady Ann Conollys obliging letter of the 19[th], it came in dew time. I had allsoe a letter from Mr Conolly³⁵³ the packet before which I wo[ul]d have answered but knew he most be in a hurry l[e]aveing London. He writ[e]s he will be hear about the tenth. I shall be glad to see him and if he be still with you, tell him I hope he will take a bed in my house and not a lodging. A fortnight agoe I desired Mr Clark³⁵⁴ to writ[e] soe to him.

I wrot[e] to you about a fortnight agoe, I hope you have got it. I thank God I find my self better. The docters says my pulas³⁵⁵ is much mended but my good docter and kind fri[e]nd docter Gratten³⁵⁶ is now layd up with the gout and I have not seen him this wick or ten day[s] and I gri[e]ve for it, for he never mis[s]ed being hear twist a day.

I goe every day to take the ear, from aleven to wan, its what I doe – not love to doe – but I am made doe it, and as it is an amusem[en]t, for the time [being] I am content to pl[e]aas my fri[e]nds. Mrs Lowther (Croffton)³⁵⁷ is doeing cruall unkind things to the young Lady Croffton,³⁵⁸ [she] has seised her couch³⁵⁹ and horsis, has brock³⁶⁰ down old Lady Crofftons³⁶¹ coach horse,³⁶² [and] taken a way an old chari[o]t that Sir Edward³⁶³

³⁵¹ Col Henry (Harry) Clements (1704–45): see letter no. 90, note 367.

³⁵² William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁵³ William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁵⁴ Unidentified, but may possibly refer to the Conolly agent Michael Clarke: see letters nos 92, 284, 286 and 288.

³⁵⁵ *Lege* pulse

³⁵⁶ Dr James Grattan, fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, died in 1747: see letter no. 276.

³⁵⁷ Catherine Crofton (1723–67), daughter of Edward and Mary Crofton (*née* Nixon), married Sir Marcus Lowther Crofton (d. 1784), 1st bt, on 9 September 1743.

³⁵⁸ Martha Damer, daughter of Joseph and Mary Damer (*née* Churchill). She married firstly, Sir Edward Crofton (1713–45), 4th bt, on 17 June 1741, and secondly (*post* 1745), Ezekiel Nesbitt (1711–98) of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal. This disagreement probably occurred as a result of the death of Catherine's brother Sir Edward Crofton, 4th bt, who was killed in action at Tournai, France, without issue.

³⁵⁹ *Lege* seized her coach.

³⁶⁰ *Lege* broken.

³⁶¹ Mary Nixon, daughter of Anthony Nixon, who married Sir Edward Crofton (1687–1739), 3rd bt, on 4 March 1711.

³⁶² *Lege* house.

³⁶³ Sir Edward Crofton (1713–45), 4th bt.

had given his mother. This makes a great noyse. She allsoe went to Mr Michells³⁶⁴ bank to demand Lady Crofftons³⁶⁵ plat[e] and jewells which he wo[ul]d not give up. This is now all the talk in town. Its hard [that] the young lady [Crofton] that brought 11500 po[u]d sh[oul]d meet with such usige.

I hope to goe to the co[u]ntery so[o]ne, I want to be there. I beg l[e]ave to say 2 or 3 words to my dear Kety.³⁶⁶ I send this as usell³⁶⁷ but in all pleas³⁶⁸ and upon all occasions I am dear Madam, with great truth, love, and esteem, your ever affectionate a[u]nt and true and feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My dear Kety, I was glad to hear from you and that you wear soe hap[p]y to be at you're a[u]nt Varnon³⁶⁹ and I am sure she is hap[p]y to have you with her as I am sure your hap[p]y to get your mama with you and she to be with you. Meny hear inquir[e]s affter you and loves [you] but no body more soe then, my dear, dear, Kety, your ever affectionate a[u]nt, Ka: Conolly

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272. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 11 JUNE 1745

My dear Lady Ann,

Last night I had yours from Straton³⁷⁰ of the 31[st] of May. I am glad you got safe there and fo[u]nd all your dear girills³⁷¹ well, I pray God keep you and them soe. I am glad you left m[aste]r³⁷² soe well and full of spirits, I hope he will live to be a comfort to his fri[e]nds. He has my best wishes. Pray when you writ[e] to Mr Vivant desire him to writ[e] some times to me to let me know how master is.

I came hear last Thursday, the forst time senas the forst wick of January. It was a sho[c]k, but I thank my God I am better then for any wan co[ul]d [have] expect[ed] I co[ul]d be, Gods will be done and grant me submission to it which I hope he will. I shall return to Dublin a Thursday for my tow cousen Montgomerys³⁷³ came with me and I promised them to return that day. They have bine true kind fri[e]nds to me and when you writ[e] to the wodow³⁷⁴ as[s]ure her I am senceable of there

³⁶⁴ Henry Mitchell (*ante* 1716–1768). Mitchells Bank was one of the lesser banks in Dublin involved in the transmission of money from 1707. By the late 1700s it was known as Mitchell & MacCarell: Louis Cullen, *Anglo-Irish trade 1660–1800* (Manchester, 1968), p. 197.

³⁶⁵ Martha (*née* Damer), Lady Crofton: see letter no. 271, note 358.

³⁶⁶ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

³⁶⁷ *Lege* usual.

³⁶⁸ *Lege* places.

³⁶⁹ Lady Henrietta Vernon (*née* Wentworth) (1720–86): see letter no. 277, note 465.

³⁷⁰ Stretton Hall, Stretton, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

³⁷¹ Her daughters were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–1799), Anne, and Harriet (1744–71) Conolly.

³⁷² Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

³⁷³ Referring to the descendants of Col Montgomery (1667–1726) and Elizabeth (*née* Cole) (b. c. 1681) of Ballyleck or the family of George Leslie Montgomery, MP for Co. Cavan, son of Margaret (*née* Montgomery) (b. 1662) and Rev. George Leslie (1620–80).

³⁷⁴ Possibly referring to Elizabeth Montgomery (*née* Cole) (b. c. 1681) of Ballyleck, widow of Col Alexander Montgomery (1667–1726).

kindness and goodness to me. I am glad you have Miss Breton³⁷⁵ with you for she is a most agreeable companion, I am much hers.

I sopose before this Mr Conolly³⁷⁶ is come towards Ierland, for before I left Dublin Mr Clark³⁷⁷ told me he expected him about this time.

Pen, ink and paper so bad I wish you may read this. When I writ[e] nixt I hope to be better supply[e]d with these things then I am now. I wrot[e] to you the 1st of this month and shall not mis wanst a wick or ten days to inquire affter your ladyships health and the dear girills. I am glad you think Kety³⁷⁸ looks soe well. I was allways sure she wo[ul]d make as fine a woman as any wan of your girills. I pray God bless her and prasarve³⁷⁹ her to you and all your sweet children, for I love them much. I wo[ul]d not miss this post in writing to you.

We have sad, wet, cold, we[a]ther. The Archbushop³⁸⁰ will be hear this day; he went yesterday to settell some bissness with the Bushop of Meath.³⁸¹ I am sure he is much obliged to your Ladyship, he is very good to me, soe is meny more, God reward him. I shall say no more now then to as[s]ure you I love and esteem you much, for I am with great truth and sincerity, dear, dear, madam, your ever affectionate a[u]nt and feathfull sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

[PS] Is your old lady still liveing?³⁸² My sister Jones and both cousin[s] Montgomery gives there best wishes and sarvice to you and all yours. Cashell³⁸³ begs you wo[ul]d except of hers.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

273. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 2 AUGUST 1745

My dear Lady Ann,

You ear soe good and obliging to me I want words, but not a true senas at all [of] your goodness to me. The day I left Dublin I writ a line to you and senas I came hear I had the ple[a]sure of tow letters from you. Mr Conolly³⁸⁴ dined hear yesterday and showed me your kind letter to him about settling your estate. It is very kind in you and what will redound to your pra[i]ses, but meny that has not your right way of thinking wo[ul]d not think of it, but dear madam you have a husband that loves and vally[e]s you. Had I bine mistris of the best fortune in the world I sho[ul]d have acted the same way, and I pray God to keep and prassarve³⁸⁵ you long to e[a]che other.

³⁷⁵ Unidentified friend and companion to Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

³⁷⁶ William Conolly (1706–54).

³⁷⁷ Unidentified.

³⁷⁸ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

³⁷⁹ *Lege* preserve.

³⁸⁰ Arthur Price (1678–1752), archbishop of Cashel: see letter no. 270, note 348.

³⁸¹ Henry Maule (1676?–1758), bishop of Meath, 1744–58: *DIB*.

³⁸² Lady Anne Wentworth (*née* Johnson), countess of Strafford.

³⁸³ Alicia (*née* Colville), Lady Mountcashell.

³⁸⁴ William Conolly (1706–54)

³⁸⁵ *Lege* preserve.

When I came hear Sir St Gorge³⁸⁶ came with me which I am sure I was glad of, for I love him for her sack³⁸⁷ that doted on him, and for meny good qualitys he is master off. His good nature I fear will draw him in to meny inconvacys,³⁸⁸ for his brother Hamilton³⁸⁹ came hear from Newgrange and hurried him a way the nixt morning earley. For I have allways obsarved non[e] of his relatives co[ul]d bear his being much with me. They all have there designs in view, but I never had any but I thought was for his good. My dear child³⁹⁰ was senceable of there ways, but as he knew her worth she had the power over him, but now allas she is gone, I fear much for him. I hear nothing of his wife's sister.³⁹¹ Her husband³⁹² wo[ul]d fean have her to have her fortune settled in trustees for her use, but her brother sent Dean Gore³⁹³ from this for he has not seen her yet to know if she wo[ul]d doe it. She gave a flit answer. All her brothers and sisters is as fond of her as ever, but for my part, I hope I shall never see her, for, had she marry[e]d the best fortune in England it had bine the same thing to me, for doeing it when my dear child was just de[a]d and before she was buryed and her brother a dying, [she] had never seen him above a fortnight.³⁹⁴ There is some thing in it soe missfavoring a young woman that I heat³⁹⁵ her, and when the vallaable³⁹⁶ sister was a deying [she] was in all the publick rooms every day. Now can you blame me, I told her brother of it but his good nature wo[ul]d have excused some part of her fa[u]lts.

Dear madam, accept this [short letter as] I can[n]ot help it, 2 coaches stop[p]ed at the door, [a] fine famally and [one that] I doe not know. Elas³⁹⁷ my sarvics in the kindest manner to Miss Preston³⁹⁸ and blessing to all your girills,³⁹⁹ but more perticklerly to my dear Kety, she owes me a letter. I am with true love and esteem, my dear, dear, Lady Ann, your ever affactionate a[u]nt and most feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My sister Jones sarvis and Cashels.⁴⁰⁰ It is not them [that called] but the Hackins and Cromey⁴⁰¹ [families]

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³⁸⁶ Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46) of Manor Gore, Co. Donegal, widower of Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

³⁸⁷ *Lege* sake.

³⁸⁸ *Lege* inconveniences.

³⁸⁹ Frederick Cary Hamilton of Dungiven, Co. Londonderry, who married Elizabeth Gore, sister of Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46).

³⁹⁰ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45).

³⁹¹ Unidentified reference to one of six sisters of Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46).

³⁹² Unidentified reference to the husband of above.

³⁹³ Unidentified.

³⁹⁴ This incident reflects the depth of feeling Katherine had for her wards and her grief at their deaths.

³⁹⁵ *Lege* hate.

³⁹⁶ *Lege* valuable, referring to Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45).

³⁹⁷ *Lege* else.

³⁹⁸ Unidentified.

³⁹⁹ Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–1799), Anne, and Harriet (1744–71) Conolly.

⁴⁰⁰ Referring to Alicia (*née* Colville), Lady Mountcashell.

⁴⁰¹ Unidentified families.

274. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 8 FEBRUARY 1745/[46]

[On front of the envelope] I pray doe not forget to give this letter as you have done meny before now.

A sonday we had 5 packets came in and I had the pleasure of rece[i]ving a letter from my dear, dear Lady Ann Conolly. I longed much to hear from you for nothing can give me more reall joy than the hearing you and yours is well, for which I thank God. Yours was the 23[r]d, and wan from my dear Kety⁴⁰² of [the]21[st], and wan from Mr Vivant⁴⁰³ of the same deat. Dear madam, I cannot express my self how much I am obliged to you for your kind expression to me. All I can say is ther[e is] no love left for I very sencearly love you. I think our news is but ver[y] indif[fe]rant. I pray God send us better and prasarve our gallant duck⁴⁰⁴ and protect him, I wish he had not come back from Carli[s]le. Now we long to hear the duck is got to Scotland,⁴⁰⁵ which we may doe by ship news which is not allways to be depend[ed] one.⁴⁰⁶

I was told last wick that I had a letter from you and that you had wrot[e] to me that all provisions was soe dear that you had givin a g[u]iney for a leg of mutten and half a g[u]iney for a turkey. I was forced to swear I had no such letter, but I hear that all provisions is very deer.

I wrote to you wanst or twist to tell me some thing of L[or]d Rothes⁴⁰⁷ and if it was his br[other] Notley⁴⁰⁸ that was taken prisoner and now set at liberty. Lady Chesterfeld⁴⁰⁹ h[a]s had a long confin[e]m[em]t. This day she will see the ladys in her dressing room but dear⁴¹⁰ not goe e[i]ther in to the drawing room or back room, tho[ugh] there has bine 2 or 3 balls sences her illness at the castell.⁴¹¹

I thank you for your ac[coun]t of meny wed[d]ing[s], tho[ugh] L[or]d Hadinton⁴¹² has noe great eateat. Lady H[a]d[d]in[gton] has soe much in her power she may make them very e[a]sey. Mr Jonston being to be marryed to Lady Sharlet Wantage,⁴¹³

⁴⁰² Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁰³ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴⁰⁴ *Lege* duke. Prince William Augustus (1721–65), the younger son of George II and Caroline of Ansbach, and duke of Cumberland from 1726. He is generally best remembered for his role in putting down the Jacobite rising at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, which success made him immensely popular throughout Britain.

⁴⁰⁵ This may refer to the duke of Cumberland being recalled from Flanders to staunch the Jacobite Rising.

⁴⁰⁶ *Lege* on.

⁴⁰⁷ Gen. John Leslie (c. 1698–1767), 10th earl of Rothes was appointed commander-in-chief of the army in Ireland.

⁴⁰⁸ Unidentified. This person is not identifiable with any member of Gen. John Leslie's family.

⁴⁰⁹ Melusina von der Schulenburg (1693–1778), countess of Walsingham, was the natural daughter of King George I and his long-time mistress, Melusina von der Schulenburg, duchess of Kendal. She married Philip Dormer Stanhope (1694–1773), 4th earl of Chesterfield in September 1733; he served as lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1745–6. Chesterfield had no surviving children by his wife Melusina: *ODNB*; *DIB*.

⁴¹⁰ *Lege* dare.

⁴¹¹ Dublin Castle, the seat of the lord lieutenant and viceroy of Ireland.

⁴¹² Thomas Hamilton, 7th earl of Haddington (1721–94), was the son of Charles Hamilton, Lord Binning, and his wife Rachel (*née* Baillie).

⁴¹³ Both parties are unidentified.

if she has a good fortune it may doe well. Mr Hassys⁴¹⁴ ma[t]ch has bin long talked off⁴¹⁵ and I hear by his fri[e]nds its off. If it be a good ma[t]ch fer any fri[e]nd [of] L[or]d Chalkes⁴¹⁶ they shall be glad off it, for he is I think a very good man. All wed[d]ings hear at a stand, tho[ugh] meny talke off [it] but non[e] of consequanc[e]s.

Tell my love Kety⁴¹⁷ I'll writ[e] to her to day if I can. My blessing to her and the rest, indeed Willy Clemons is a good boy and I hope Master Conolly⁴¹⁸ and he will be good fri[e]nds. I will writ[e] so[o]ne to Mr Vivant.⁴¹⁹ I have seen no letters from Mr Conolly⁴²⁰ by the fa[u]lt of packets, not by that which came in yesterday, for Mr Mick Clerk⁴²¹ is at Lagilin.⁴²² My love attends him and I am my dear, dear madam, to him and you with true love and esteem, your ever affect[ionate] a[u]nt and feathfull fri[e]nd and serv[an]t, Ka Conolly

[PS] Meny sarvices attends you. My sister Jones is ill with a great cold and sore thro[a]t, I have not seen her these ten days. Cashell⁴²³ is soe ill with a cold [that] she has had these 3 months that I begine to fear [for] her.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

275. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 25 FEBRUARY 1745[/46]

A Sunday Mr Clemons⁴²⁴ man arrived and brought me your kind present of a moddell of the duck of Comberland.⁴²⁵ Nothing co[ul]d placis⁴²⁶ me more for I have a most vallant⁴²⁷ love for him and wishes him to goe one as he has begone,⁴²⁸ with honner and glory. I wrot[e] to you last post and wo[ul]d not writ[e] soe so[o]ne again but in my last I told you we fear[ed] he was lost, but last Sunday he arrived safe to the great joy of Lady Santery,⁴²⁹ that is most prodigesly pl[e]ased with her ring and medell. I doe not think the medell well strok,⁴³⁰ but as it is done in honner to our young hero, I am fond of it.

⁴¹⁴ Unidentified.

⁴¹⁵ *Lege* of.

⁴¹⁶ Unidentified.

⁴¹⁷ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴¹⁸ William Clements (1733–70) and Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴¹⁹ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁴²⁰ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴²¹ Unidentified.

⁴²² Possibly Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.

⁴²³ Alicia (*née* Colville), Lady Mountcashell; see letter no. 276, note 462.

⁴²⁴ Probably a servant of Nathaniel Clements (1705–77).

⁴²⁵ Prince William Augustus (1721–65), duke of Cumberland.

⁴²⁶ *Lege* please.

⁴²⁷ *Lege* violent.

⁴²⁸ *Lege* begun.

⁴²⁹ Bridget Barry, Lady Santry (d. 1750): see letter no. 265, note 289.

⁴³⁰ *Lege* struck.

Yesterday Mrs Struck,⁴³¹ Jeny Troter's son was c[h]ristined and I [was] godmother Miss Troter stood for me. I hope the child will live, she had a sever[e] time for 24 hours but is quit[e] well recovered.

Little news sturing, my poor n[e]ighbour Lady Butler⁴³² dyed Sunday morning. She dined her[e] the wick before, a cold and an inflammation on her longes.⁴³³ I am really sor[r]y for her for she was a good n[e]ighbour to me in the co[u]ntery, and I believe I am as sor[r]y for her as some nearer to her. She was of an unhap[p]y temper, had meny scrapes with her n[e]ighbo[u]rs, but I was allways a faveriet⁴³⁴ with her. She has [maintained] her sons famaly ever senas they came to Ierland, it never cost them a farthing. He gets about [£]4 or [£]500 a year and lee[a]ses and her 2 jo[i]nters. She is to be burr[i]ed to morrow at Lucan.⁴³⁵ Poor woman, the day before she deyed she sent her made to me with a very prity purse of her one work, the same sort you used to work, and a great meny prayers and good wishes with it. This is all I can say of her.

Miss Monro⁴³⁶ that was, is at last married, as much work as if it had bine wan of the princes. Mar[r]yed in the park, came back, she went hom[e], he some whear class. I sopose they meet at night. This is all I can say about them.

We have had 3 days of continuall r[a]ine [so] that the co[u]ntery is all in flo[o]ds. Its very bad for the co[u]ntery, whe[a]t rises 5 or 6 and twenty shillin[g]s the barrall. Just now I asked if the floods had done any damage at Layslip,⁴³⁷ it has not.

My love and sarvices to Mr Conolly and your lordyship,⁴³⁸ with my blessing to all your dear children, espeshally my love Kety.⁴³⁹ I am hurried, I can say noe more, but I hope you will beli[e]ve me when I as[s]ure you I am, with true love and esteem, dear madam, your affactionate a[u]nt and fa[i]thfull humble sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

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276. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 8 MARCH 1745/[46]

With great joy I had my dear Lady Ann Conollys of the 27[th] of Febr[uar]y when it brought me the good account of your being better. Your letter came last Thursday night leat and mine to Miss Conolly⁴⁴⁰ was gone to the post offices before the packets come in or I had oponed her letter to tell her I had got yours. I was in great une[a]seyneess about you but I thank God yours has made me hap[p]y. I find by Mr

⁴³¹ Probably a tenant of the Conollys.

⁴³² Possibly Mary Plunkett, the daughter of Christopher Plunkett, 2nd earl of Fingall, who married Walter Butler.

⁴³³ *Lege* lungs.

⁴³⁴ *Lege* favourite.

⁴³⁵ Lucan, a village on the outskirts of Dublin.

⁴³⁶ Unidentified.

⁴³⁷ *Lege* Leixlip, Co. Kildare, the Irish residence of William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴³⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴³⁹ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁴⁰ Possibly referring to Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

Conollys⁴⁴¹ to Mr Clark⁴⁴² he has bine ill, which I am glad I did not know till [he] says he is quite well again, or it had bine an ad[d]ition to my consarn. I pray God keep him, you, and all yours in parfict health and hap[[]]yness is my sencear wish.

I beli[e]ve my last [letter] to my love Katy⁴⁴³ surprised you [concerning] the ma[t]ch I told her off, but soe it is, and what with wed[d]ings, balls, drums, assamblys and plays 3 times a wick, never was such a gay term. I hear of them, but I can have noe ple[a]sure in anything (but the health of my fri[e]nds) till I hear the rebels⁴⁴⁴ is intyerly disperseded.⁴⁴⁵

Sencis I wrot[e] this far, the packet dew last Thursday came in; noe letter from any body to me. As I wro[e]t twist to Kity Jones⁴⁴⁶ senas this day sennet, I have not a word of news to intertane you with. Is Lady Strafford⁴⁴⁷ got clire⁴⁴⁸ of her gout? Capt[ain] Curry⁴⁴⁹ and Mr Brock⁴⁵⁰ both very ill with it. Docter Graton⁴⁵¹ is recovering to my great joy, for whenever I am ill he is hear at least twist a day and when well never missis comeing wanst a day, and all this with out fee or reward except true love and fri[e]ndship which he has very sencerly.

My love and best wishes attend Mr Conolly,⁴⁵² your Ladyship⁴⁵³ and all yours. Tell Fanay⁴⁵⁴ she most not marry master Clemons⁴⁵⁵ till she has my consent and they shall be marryed at Castelltown and I'll give them a fine large plum cake.

We had very fine we[a]ther for 4 or 5 days but now its very bad, great r[a]ine and heall.⁴⁵⁶ Lady Santery,⁴⁵⁷ Miss Keating⁴⁵⁸ disers⁴⁵⁹ me to make there complem[en]ts as doth my sister,⁴⁶⁰ Mrs Nisbet,⁴⁶¹ Cashell⁴⁶² and twenty more. Both my cousen

⁴⁴¹ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁴² Unidentified.

⁴⁴³ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁴⁴ Referring to the February 1744 planned invasion of southern England by France.

⁴⁴⁵ *Lege* dispersed.

⁴⁴⁶ The context of this letter suggests Katherine is referring to Kitty (b. 1740/[41]), a daughter of Roger Jones (d. 1747) of Dolanstown, Co. Meath.

⁴⁴⁷ Lady Anne Wentworth (*née* Johnson), countess of Strafford and Lady Anne Conolly's mother.

⁴⁴⁸ *Lege* clear.

⁴⁴⁹ Capt. Edmund Leslie Corry (d. 1764).

⁴⁵⁰ Unidentified.

⁴⁵¹ Dr James Grattan, fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland from 1704, was the third son of Rev. Patrick Grattan of Belcamp, Co. Dublin and was elected king's professor of the practice of medicine in 1719 and held the post until his death in 1747.

⁴⁵² William Conolly (1706–54).

⁴⁵³ Lady Anne Wentworth (*née* Johnson), countess of Strafford.

⁴⁵⁴ Frances Conolly (*ante* 1745–1817), daughter of William (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴⁵⁵ William Clements (1733–70).

⁴⁵⁶ *Lege* hail.

⁴⁵⁷ Bridget Barry, Lady Santry (d. 1750): see letter no. 265, note 289.

⁴⁵⁸ Thomas Pearson's (1678–1736) niece: see also letters nos 130, 268 and 277.

⁴⁵⁹ *Lege* desires

⁴⁶⁰ Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765).

⁴⁶¹ Unidentified member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

⁴⁶² Alicia Colville, daughter of Hugh Colville, married Stephen Moore (d. 1766), 1st Viscount Mountcashell.

Currys⁴⁶³ allways begs me to say meny obligeing things from them to you. With true love and esteem, I am dear, dear, madam, your ever affectionate a[u]nt and feathfull humble sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My love dear Kety,⁴⁶⁴ is your a[u]nt Varnan⁴⁶⁵ and her little wan well. My humble sarvics to your grandmama⁴⁶⁶ and [may] her fare well. My dear, you say you rece[i]ved mine of the 11th Febr[uar]y, I wrot[e] senas the 20[th] and 25[th].

TCD, Ms 3974/52

277. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 17 MARCH
1745[/46]

Yesterday brought me my dear Lady Anns letter of the 11th which gave me great joy to hear you wear all well and that my dear Jamey⁴⁶⁷ was soe much improved. He has my best wishes that he may improve in every thing his fri[e]nds can wish.

I thank you for the account you give me of the sudan changes and sudan changes [*sic*] back to the right Channell, it was wonderfull and hap[p]y.⁴⁶⁸

As for news, we have soe much devartions that nothing elas is talk[ed] off, only Generall Whichet⁴⁶⁹ which is deed and has left a great fortune, most to his sister Parnwell.⁴⁷⁰ He desired that he might have a great funeral and all millitary honners, insteed of that he was burryed yesterday in a most [civil] manner. The compeny⁴⁷¹ was invited for 12 a clock but did not come out till 3, and many of my fri[e]nds that was to dine with me did not come home till near 4 a clock, all out of humer. No capt[ain] in barracks but wo[ul]d have had a better funerall.

It is now sayd, and there is but few that dou[b]ts it, that Miss Riggs is married to Mr Cane⁴⁷² the gentellman Usher, and that Miss Nickson⁴⁷³ is to be married to [the]

⁴⁶³ Referring to her cousin Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) and family members.

⁴⁶⁴ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁶⁵ Lady Henrietta Wentworth (1720–86), daughter of Anne (*née* Johnson) and Thomas Wentworth, 2nd earl of Strafford (1672–1739), married Henry Vernon of Hilton Park, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

⁴⁶⁶ Lady Anne Wentworth, countess of Strafford.

⁴⁶⁷ James Conolly (*ante* 1745), son of William Conolly (1706–54) and Lady Anne Conolly (*née* Wentworth) (1714–97).

⁴⁶⁸ Possibly referring to the aborted French invasion of southern England.

⁴⁶⁹ Samuel Warter Whitshed (1685–1746), son of Thomas and Mary Whitshed (*née* Quin), professional soldier and MP for Wicklow borough, 1715–27–46; he was a younger brother of William Whitshed (1679–1727), MP and later a judge: *HIP*.

⁴⁷⁰ Mary, daughter of Thomas and Mary Whitshed (*née* Quin), married John Parnell (d. 1727), MP for Granard, 1713–14, 1715–22.

⁴⁷¹ Referring to those invited to attend the funeral.

⁴⁷² Louisa, daughter of Edward Riggs, MP, married in 1741 Lt Col Hugh Cane (1719–93) of Dowdstown, Co. Kildare, MP for Tallow, with whom she had two daughters: Anne, who married Sir Edward Leslie, bt, of Tarbert, Co. Kerry, a kinsman of Katherine Conolly; and Louisa, who married Col Anstey. Much later Cane married Annabella, Lady Blakiston, widow of Sir Mathew Blakiston (d. 1774), lord mayor of London in 1761: *HIP*; <http://www.libraryireland.com/Pedigrees1/o-cahan-1-heremon.php> (accessed 12 July 2014); see also letter no. 278 below.

⁴⁷³ Unidentified.

Lord Chanc[el]l[o]rs⁴⁷⁴ son, but her father says he never h[e]ard a word of it and he is sure my Lord Chanc[el]ler wo[ul]d tell him forst. This is all the news I now hear off.

I know you did never wear nor like[d] long hoops, but hear some ladys runs into such monsterouss wans that any 3 ladys fills my room soe much as no body can come in and goe out. Pray say, doe they wear such with you? For you know all the fine ladys in Ierland most run in to the h[e]ight of every fashion.

Just now a packet is come in. I had a letter from Mr [manuscript damaged] for which I thank him and will writ[e] so[o]ne to him.

My dear Kety,⁴⁷⁵ I am very well pl[e]ased with the descript[i]on you give of Mr Conyngham,⁴⁷⁶ for I wo[ul]d depend as much on your liking as upon my one and more too.

I am consarned Lady Straford⁴⁷⁷ is still confined. Is your sister Varnon⁴⁷⁸ still in London. I hope her littell wan is well. Miss Kettin⁴⁷⁹ begs me to writ[e] to you for a box of the lozings you sent me for Mrs Gardner.⁴⁸⁰ I aske pardon for this and wants to send you and some of [the] dear childrin some little seals and something elas to my Kety. God bless you all and believe me dear, dear, madam, your affectionate a[u]nt and true fri[e]nd and sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] If Lady St Leger⁴⁸¹ be not come away send the lossinges for Mrs Gardner by her.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

278. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 12 APRIL 1746

Last packet brought me the ple[a]suer of yours, my dear Lady Ann's obliging letter of the 5t[h] as it gives me the pleasing ac[coun]t of yours and all the d[ea]r childrins health, I wish a long continuancs⁴⁸² of it. I cannot be long to see my d[ea]r Kety's⁴⁸³ fan she sent me and sho[ul]d be glad to hear you had got the littell box with jew[e]lls for Kety. I am not sure if I put anything elas in the box but the nibbell⁴⁸⁴ for you, for I

⁴⁷⁴ Robert Jocelyn (c. 1688–1756), lord chancellor of Ireland, 1739–56, was created Baron Newport, of Newport, Co. Tipperary in 1743 and Viscount Jocelyn in 1755. As lord chancellor he was one of those charged with designing measures to alleviate the Irish famine of 1740–41. His son Robert Jocelyn (bap. 1721–1797) was MP for Old Leighlin, 1745–56, and auditor general of the exchequer, 1750–97. He succeeded to his father's peerage in 1756 and was created earl of Roden on 1 December 1771. He married Anne, daughter of James Hamilton, 1st earl of Clanbrassill and his wife Henrietta (*née* Bentinck), in 1752: *DIB*; *HIP*; *GEC*.

⁴⁷⁵ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁷⁶ Referring to a child of Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81) and his wife Ellen (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816) who subsequently died.

⁴⁷⁷ Lady Anne Wentworth, countess of Strafford.

⁴⁷⁸ Lady Henrietta Vernon (1720–86): see letter no. 277, note 465.

⁴⁷⁹ Thomas Pearson's (1678–1736) niece: see also letters nos 268 and 276.

⁴⁸⁰ Unidentified.

⁴⁸¹ Probably Elizabeth Hayes, who married Arthur St Leger, 1st Viscount Doneraile, son of John St Leger and his wife Lady Mary Chichester, on 24 June 1690.

⁴⁸² *Lege* continuance.

⁴⁸³ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁴⁸⁴ Unidentified use of a word, but the context suggests Katherine is referring to a biscuit or a nut.

put them up in such a hurry I doe not remembe[r] what I put up. If the nibble was not perish[ed] I sho[ul]d not have had the assurances of sending it. I wrot[e] e[i]ther to you or Kety that I was picking some more, tho[ugh] I can get non[e] soe prity as the wan was, but how ever I'll send some if you will dispose of them to your mother and sisters.⁴⁸⁵ But say nothing of me, for [I] sho[ul]d be ashamed to send them such triffells.

I am sor[r]y for princess Carraline,⁴⁸⁶ her being soe bad is a most mallancolly thing but nather buthy, berth, nor grandure⁴⁸⁷ can give us any cartantaely⁴⁸⁸ of this life (soe we most submit).

I am glad the duck of Grafton⁴⁸⁹ is marrying his daughter⁴⁹⁰ to his satisfaction. Last wick the ley⁴⁹¹ hear was that she had run a way with Capt[ain] Jonstons son, Capt[ain] Jonston [that acts] as agent to reg[i]m[en]ts hear. Now this wick the ley is that L[or]d Killdears⁴⁹² mistris has aloped with him from the ducks house. Soe they make him a fine man that nothing bad ducks daughters can goe down with him. I saw Lady Killdear⁴⁹³ yesterday, she looks very ill, looks as if she had the ja[u]ndiss. Last Thursday I hear Lady Chesterfield⁴⁹⁴ went to see Layslip and din[e]d at Proby Kines. Nothing seems to be surer [than] that Capt[ain] Kines⁴⁹⁵ being to be marryed to Miss Riggs and its sayd the mother is come in to it, and in return she is come in to her mothers ma[t]ch with wan known by the name of Halfpenny Groom. Miss Humes is to be marryed nixt wick for Lady Alexs desired Mr Rochford to goe in to the co[un]tery [un]till she sent for him, and she has sent to him to be in town as nixt Monday. All this looks simpell for very few but believes they ear marryed some time.

I am glad our d[ea]r young wans had a ball. May every thing they meet with give them pleasure, my blessing attends them.

Yesterday our parlement meet and our L[or]d L[e]u[tenan]t's⁴⁹⁶ speech is commended, I send it [to] you. They talk of goeing nixt satherday for they will they say keep the Duck of Comberlands⁴⁹⁷ bearth day. My cossen Currys,⁴⁹⁸ all of them, gives

⁴⁸⁵ Lady Anne, countess of Strafford, and Lady Henrietta Vernon (1720–86).

⁴⁸⁶ Princess Caroline (1713–59), daughter of George II (1683–1760) and Queen Caroline (1683–1737).

⁴⁸⁷ *Lege* beauty, birth nor grandeur.

⁴⁸⁸ *Lege* certainty.

⁴⁸⁹ Charles Fitzroy (1683–1757), 2nd duke of Grafton, lord lieutenant of Ireland, 1720–24, married Lady Henrietta Somerset (1690–1726). They had eight children; the duchess died on 9 August 1726 three weeks after the birth of their fourth daughter: GEC.

⁴⁹⁰ Referring either to Lady Caroline Fitzroy (1722–84) who married William Stanhope, 2nd earl of Harrington or her sister Lady Isabella Fitzroy (1726–82) who married Francis Seymour-Conway, 1st marquess of Hertford: GEC.

⁴⁹¹ *Lege* lie.

⁴⁹² Lt Gen. James FitzGerald (1722–73), 20th earl of Kildare: see letter no. 268, note 323.

⁴⁹³ Lady Mary Fitzgerald, dowager countess of Kildare: see letter no. 268, note 323.

⁴⁹⁴ Melusina Stanhope (*née* von der Schulenburg) (1693–1778), countess of Chesterfield and countess of Walsingham: see letter no. 274, note 409.

⁴⁹⁵ *Lege* Cane. Lt Col Hugh Cane (1716–93) of Dowdstown, Co. Kildare, who married Louisa Riggs: see letter no. 277.

⁴⁹⁶ 4th earl of Chesterfield: see letter no. 274, note 409.

⁴⁹⁷ The birthday of Prince William Augustus (1721–65), duke of Cumberland.

⁴⁹⁸ The extended family of Col John Corry (1667–1726) of Castle Coole, Co. Fermanagh and his wife Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie).

there sarvices to you and its my regret I did not doe it so[o]nner. I have by some accident renewed my cold and am not at all well. Adew my d[ea]r, d[ea]r, Lady Ann, with true affect[ion] and great esteem, I am most truly your feathfull serv[an]t, Ka Conolly

[PS] Mr Whit⁴⁹⁹ at Picherstown deyed yesterday.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

279. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 15 MAY 1746

With great pleasure I had my d[ea]r Lady Ann Conollys of [manuscript torn] May and had not my d[ea]r love Kety⁵⁰⁰ wrot[e] prity. After I sho[ul]d have bine very unhappy for I know not what joy nor pleasure is but in hearing my absent fri[e]nds is well, for I am soe unhappy as all ways to fear the worst of every thing that consarns me. It gives me great pleasure that the present I sent is soe acceptable to you all, but Kety did not say how the [manuscript damaged] shons⁵⁰¹ was liked. I think my Lady Strafford⁵⁰² and [manuscript damaged] is very good in there ecepting⁵⁰³ such things.

I was in hopes to have got before this to Castelltown, but a month [before] I sent a house keeper there, [and] in 2 days she fell sick and has never left her bed nor room senas, and I have weated till now to see if she wo[ul]d recover, but now I most hire another which keeps me still in Dublin, but nixt wick I hope to get home. I think you and your sisters is in the right to sell your esteat in Oxfordshire, and wh[e]ne that is sold I hope it will make Mr Conolly⁵⁰⁴ easy, for sure there can not be a more troublesome thing than bine in deat.⁵⁰⁵ That I can be a judge of, for opon my marrying my dearly beloved child⁵⁰⁶ I did involve my self in deet, and tho[ugh] I had enough, and enough to pay it to you, the bad payment of rents and the poverty of the co[u]ntery has kept me poorer than I have bine. But God bless the Duck of Comberland,⁵⁰⁷ I hope his defe[a]ting the rebels⁵⁰⁸ will settell us in picces⁵⁰⁹ and quiet again. He is a glorious young man [manuscript damaged] and I think great [?].

⁴⁹⁹ Possibly Henry White of Pitcherstown, Co. Kildare.

⁵⁰⁰ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁵⁰¹ Unidentified word relative to a child's item, it is not familiar to the staff of the Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood. However, 'shoon' is an archaic Scots word for shoes: see letter no. 280 below.

⁵⁰² Lady Anne Wentworth (*née* Johnson), countess of Strafford.

⁵⁰³ *Lege* accepting.

⁵⁰⁴ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵⁰⁵ *Lege* debt.

⁵⁰⁶ Alice Gore (*née* Burton) (1728–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

⁵⁰⁷ *Lege* Cumberland, Prince William Augustus (1721–65), duke of Cumberland.

⁵⁰⁸ Referring to the Jacobite uprising in Scotland and in particular to the battle of Culloden which was the final confrontation of the 1745 Jacobite Rising: on 16 April 1746, the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart fought loyalist troops commanded by William Augustus, duke of Cumberland, near Inverness in the Scottish highlands. The Hanoverian victory at Culloden decisively halted the Jacobite intent to overthrow the house of Hanover and restore the house of Stuart to the British throne. Charles Stuart never mounted any further attempts to challenge Hanoverian power in Britain.

⁵⁰⁹ *Lege* peace.

Miss Doora Burk⁵¹⁰ was married last Friday to wan Docter Foster,⁵¹¹ wan of the fellows of the Collidge⁵¹² who has got a living from the Collidge. Capt[ain] Burton⁵¹³ is all for marrying and meny more that I doe not well remember.

But some time a goe Lady Santery⁵¹⁴ gave me half a g[u]iney to send to you. As my d[ea]r Kety was my littell banker I did intend to writ[e] [to] her to pay [it], but I fear I have fer got it, and Lady Santery is in soe much tr[o]uble ab[ou]t it that she can [manuscript damaged] she hears you have got it. Soe within the seal of this letter I have put half a g[u]iney. It's a way I acted to send mon[e]y to the 2 Burtons,⁵¹⁵ it went allways safe.

Tell Mr Vivant⁵¹⁶ I wonder he doth not writ[e] to me. My sarvices to Mr Conolly⁵¹⁷ and blessing[s] to Master Conolly and Clemons.⁵¹⁸ Lady Bety Boxsbay⁵¹⁹ is in the small pox, she was inoculated ten days agoe, she will have a great meny [spots], Miss Gore and Master Donallin⁵²⁰ is well recovered and has bine a brood.⁵²¹ My cousin Curry and her daughter Betsy⁵²² l[e]aves town to morrow. I wish you may reed this for I writ[e] in a hurry but wo[ul]d not neglect wan note of telling you how hap[p]y yours made me. I am d[ea]r, d[ea]r, madam, with sencear love [manuscript damaged], Ka Conolly.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

**280. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTELLTOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON,
3 JUNE 1746**

My d[ea]r Lady Ann Conolly,

I came hear ab[ou]t ten day agoe and think my cough somewhat better senas I came hear. I had yours of the 22[n]d sences I came hear which allways gives me ple[a]ssure when I hear from you and that all is well with you and yours, which I pray God may

⁵¹⁰ Unidentified.

⁵¹¹ Unidentified.

⁵¹² Trinity College, Dublin.

⁵¹³ Possibly referring to her nephew, William Burton (1733–96), son of Mary (Missy) (*née* Conyngham) (d. 1737) and Francis (Frank) Burton (1696–1744) of Buncraggy, Co. Clare.

⁵¹⁴ Bridget Barry, Lady Santry (d. 1750): see letter no. 265, note 289.

⁵¹⁵ Referring to Francis Pierpont (1721–87) and William Burton (1733–96) when they were at school or staying with their aunt and Katherine's sister Jane Bonnell (c. 1670–1745) in London.

⁵¹⁶ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁵¹⁷ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵¹⁸ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803) and probably William Clements (1733–70), son of Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) and Hannah Clements (*née* Gore) (1705–81).

⁵¹⁹ Unidentified, may also refer to the Bixby family.

⁵²⁰ Unidentified female member of the family of Sir Ralph Gore (d. 1733), 4th bt, and an unidentified son of John Donellan and Hannah Donellan (*née* Gore) of Johnstown, Co. Meath.

⁵²¹ *Lege* abroad: see Gabrielle Ashford 'Children's smallpox and inoculation procedures in eighteenth-century Ireland' in Anne McLellan and Alice Mauger (eds), *Growing pains: childhood illness in Ireland 1750–1950* (Dublin, 2013), pp 19–36.

⁵²² Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie) of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh, and her daughter Elizabeth (Betty) (1715–91) who married first, Archibald Hamilton, and second, her cousin James Leslie.

long keep you all soe. Mrs Clemons⁵²³ and 20 p[e]opell dined hear the other day. I reed your letter to her [Mrs Clements] ab[ou]t Willy Clemons.⁵²⁴ She says she is soe obliged to you for your goodness to her boy she wants words to express the sences she has of all your favours.

There came all soe to my [manuscript damaged] gossops,⁵²⁵ Mr O Hara and Lady Mary.⁵²⁶ I got Lady Santery⁵²⁷ to stand for me. Soe my trade at gossiping still goes one. I was God mother not long agoe to Mr Stewerts son that marryed Jeny Troter. Beky is in a bad steat of health ever sences her father deyed, indeed she was not well before.

I will not have the childrins chang shons⁵²⁸ locked up, for when I shall have the pleasure of seeing them they shall have shons enough for all there babys, for I am a great dealle in those shows. It give[s] me great joy in saying when Mr Conolly returns from his expedition, you will then fix a day for l[e]aving London and how I wish to see you all.

My poor cosen Curry⁵²⁹ that left Dublin ab[ou]t ten days a goe was prity well when she got to Castell Cool[e], was se[i]sed 21 days after with a loss of her legs and armes, legs stayed [spakey?] littell knows them all. Capt[ain] Curry and his wife⁵³⁰ went there a Satterday. I fear they will not overtake her alive. I loved her much and did not think all winter I sho[ul]d have lived to griev[e] for her. I am sure she wo[ul]d have gri[e]ved for me as fri[e]nds, neer relations, and long, long acqua[i]ntan[ce]s, and constant love and friendship has ever bine between us.

I have a favoer to desire of you that if you bay⁵³¹ any tea fer y[ou]rself you wo[ul]d bay fer me, for there is not any to be got good in Dublin. There is Hisham,⁵³² not very good at twenty six shillin[g]s, and I wo[ul]d be glad of the following sorts. This will be [a] troublesome commission but I knows full well my d[ea]r Lady Ann never thought it a tr[o]uble to sarve her fri[e]nds. I may soe⁵³³ soe from long experinces.

I have not any news, soe if I can pick up any when I writ[e] again, only Mrs [manuscript damaged] Phipes and Capt[ain] Fhlott is never from wan another, his love incr[e]ases. Lady Blaney⁵³⁴ told me last Satterday [when] she was hear that she

⁵²³ Hannah Gore (1705–81), daughter of Rev. William Gore, dean of Down, and his wife Honora Prittie, married Nathaniel Clements (1705–77), MP and office holder, in 1729: *DIB; HIP*.

⁵²⁴ William Clements (1733–70), son of Nathaniel and Hannah Clements.

⁵²⁵ *Lege* gathering, a dinner; Katherine is probably referring to a christening as ‘gossip’ is an archaic term for god-parents.

⁵²⁶ Charles O’Hara (the elder) (d. 1776), son of Kean O’Hara (the younger) (1657–1719), MP for Ballynakill, 1761–8 and Armagh borough, 1769–76, married c. 1742 Lady Mary Carmichael (d. 1759), daughter of the 2nd earl of Hyndford: *DIB; HIP*.

⁵²⁷ Bridget Barry, Lady Santry (d. 1750): see letter no. 265, note 289.

⁵²⁸ See letter no. 279, note 501.

⁵²⁹ Sarah Corry (*née* Leslie), who married Col John Corry (1667–1726), soldier and MP, of Castlecoole, Co. Fermanagh, in 1701: *HIP*.

⁵³⁰ Martha (Matty) Corry (*née* Corry) (1704/05–c. 1764) and Capt. Edmund Leslie (d. 1764) who assumed the surname Corry.

⁵³¹ *Lege* buy.

⁵³² Hishom, a type of tea.

⁵³³ *Recte* say.

⁵³⁴ Possibly Elizabeth Mahon (d. 1756), daughter of Nicholas Mahon and his wife Eleanor Blayney, who married Rev. Charles Talbot Blayney, 8th Baron Blayney of Monaghan, on 3 November 1734.

sees them in a charr[io]et every day goeing to take the ear. He has bine in great tr[o]uble to get her a co[u]ntry house, which she has got Lady Osborn[e]s⁵³⁵ house at Clontarfe.⁵³⁶ I shall say noe more for if I doe it most be scandal.

My love and sarvis⁵³⁷ attends Mr Conolly⁵³⁸ and all your fri[e]nds, and all the good wishes and sencere love I am capable of is jo[i]ntly don[e] to my d[ea]r Lady Ann Conolly, from her ever affect[ti]on[at]e a[u]nt and feathfull sarv[an]t, Ka Conolly.

[PS] A p[oun]d of good green tea

2 p[oun]d of camonell⁵³⁹

2 p[oun]d of Hisham

Or what you like best.

[On reverse] I writ[e] in a great hurry, wan weats for my letter.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

281. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 8 OCTOBER 1746

Yesterday by a packet that came in I had the ple[a]sure of rece[i]ving my dear, dear, Lady Ann Conollys of the 21[st] of September. I did long to hear how you all did, and I think by yours this will find you I hope in God all well and safe at Strutone.⁵⁴⁰ I pray God bless you and them⁵⁴¹ is my senesar⁵⁴² wish.

By mine to Mr Conolly⁵⁴³ of the forst inst you will know the loss I have of my dear fri[e]nd and nephew Sir St Gorge Gore.⁵⁴⁴ I sencerly gri[e]ve for him, poor young man, takin from his fri[e]nds at 24 years of age, he so[o]ne followed his dearly beloved wife. There can hardly be a greater instances of the uncarta[i]nty of this world and why sho[ul]d we set our hearts opo[n] it. A young copell, han[d]same, good, with a 1000 good qualiteys and all things seemed to come but to make them hap[p]y. But alas God thought fit to part them, for they wear too hap[p]y hear (his will be done). A year and a half a marryed, wan a year and a half a widower, but [now] gone, gone for ever. I loved him dearly as I am sure he did me and my heart ackes every houre for him. But I have done and begs your pardon for being soe long on this mallancolly sub[j]ict, but what is he[a]vey at the heart may come out, espeshally

⁵³⁵ Lady Editha Osborne *née* Proby (d. 19 January 1745/6), daughter of William Proby, married Sir John Osborne (d. 1713) 7th baronet of Ballentaylor.

⁵³⁶ An area situated beside the sea northeast of Dublin that gained increasing popularity for its healthy air over the course of the eighteenth century.

⁵³⁷ *Lege* service.

⁵³⁸ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵³⁹ *Lege* chamomile.

⁵⁴⁰ Stretton Hall, Stretton, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

⁵⁴¹ The Conolly children were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Thomas (1737–1803), Caroline (c. 1741–1817), James (Jamey) (b. *ante* 1745), Anne, Harriet (1744–71), and Frances (*ante* 1745–1817).

⁵⁴² *Lege* sincere.

⁵⁴³ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁵⁴⁴ Sir St George Gore-St George (1725–46), 5th bt, relict of Katherine's niece and ward Anne Burton (1729–45): see letter no. 265, note 279.

when wan is writing to a fri[e]nd that loves them and has a great consarn for me, as I am sure you doe. My dear, dear, madam, no thing can be a greater pleasure to me then the hearing from you or my dear Kety. I am in her deet I think 2 letters, she most excuse me, tell her soe. I have meny of my fri[e]nds with me, Mrs Corry [and] Mrs Lowery,⁵⁴⁵ there husbands is gone to the north. I thinke Mrs Lowery will stay with me this winter which will be a ple[a]sure to me for I love her much.

Yesterday I had a letter from your son. Mr Vivant⁵⁴⁶ gives him a most pleasing carracter. Not a word of news to enterta[i]ne you with soe [I] shall give no further tr[o]uble but my best wishes for you. And tell your dear children which you shall never want [for] while there is life in my dear, dear, Lady Anns ever affactionate a[u]nt and feathfull sarvant, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I gri[e]ve to hear you fear the rumitisam, it's a sad disorder and nothing better then excersis. Goe on with [horse]riding, it will doe you good, God send it may. My sarvis to Mr Conolly, I long to hear from him in answer to my last. All my fri[e]nds hear begs you will except⁵⁴⁷ of there complam[en]ts.

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282. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 6 JANUARY 1746[/47]

I had by the packet come in last Friday a letter from my dear Kety⁵⁴⁸ and wan in the same course from my dear Lady Ann Conolly which I wo[ul]d have answered last post but I was in hopes you had rece[i]ved mine and Mrs Lowerys⁵⁴⁹ about the alt[e]ration of her j[e]wells. She thinks, and seems positive, she will never wear a mant[ua] and pet[t]yco[a]t. I believe she may wear sacks and good night-gownes, and what she wo[ul]d wish is to have to wear in that dress. As to her buckell, that she is possivitive⁵⁵⁰ she never will wear. She did allow fiffy or 60 po[u]nd to make brosis⁵⁵¹ or any thing you wo[ul]d like for her bre[a]st. I wish tha[t] she doss not, that she wo[ul]d save her ear rings, for those she co[ul]d wear in an undress. But at this I shall say noe more till we hear from you [for] as you say, you wo[uld] send pattrons.⁵⁵²

S[i]r Robert Echelin⁵⁵³ is about mar[r]ying his daughter to wan Mr Palmers son.⁵⁵⁴ You may remember to hear of a boy, wan master Palmer that was allways pleying

⁵⁴⁵ Probably Martha (Matty) Corry (*née* Corry) (1704/05–c. 1764) and Sarah (Sally) Lowry (*née* Corry) (1709–79): see letters nos 282 and 283.

⁵⁴⁶ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁵⁴⁷ *Lege* accept.

⁵⁴⁸ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71): see letter no. 96, note 490.

⁵⁴⁹ Sarah (Sally) Lowry (*née* Corry) (1709–79), married Galbraith (Gilly) Lowry (1706–69) in 1733. He was the son of Robert Lowry (d. 1729) and Anna (*née* Sinclair) of Ahenis, Co. Tyrone.

⁵⁵⁰ *Lege* positive.

⁵⁵¹ *Lege* brooches.

⁵⁵² *Lege* patterns.

⁵⁵³ Sir Robert Echlin (1699–1757), 2nd bt, son of Robert Echlin (d. 1706) and Penelope (*née* Eustace), married Elizabeth Bellingham in 1725.

⁵⁵⁴ Elizabeth Echlin married Francis Palmer of Swords, Co. Dublin in 1747.

about in his couch⁵⁵⁵ and six when in the Collidge.⁵⁵⁶ His mother has visited me these many years. I allways thought her a wodow till this ma[t]ch was talked off and then a father appe[a]red. Sir Robert gives ten thousand, gives them the mon[e]y as doth the father,⁵⁵⁷ and Mr Palmer for present [expenses, a] settlment [of] either eleven or [£]1200 a year, and at his death he l[e]aves him [£]3000 a year. They ear to be marryed before Lent or so[o]ne affter. They say the young man is 22, but he looks licke a boy of 17 or 18.

As to that of Mr Husseys⁵⁵⁸ wo[u]nding a sarvant of Mr Carters,⁵⁵⁹ I hear [it] is very true. I asked Miss Kettings⁵⁶⁰ seveall times about it beca[u]se I know she was often in the famally. She denyed it, so I told her [that] she keeps that a seceterit⁵⁶¹ tho[ugh] she does not keep many things soe. But I hear the man is not yet out of danger and that Mr Carter will prosicut⁵⁶² to the utmost. I doubt no[t] but the footman was [sassey?] as they generley ear.

The duchis⁵⁶³ still holds out, but will not goe to any more drums.⁵⁶⁴ She was at Lady Blany's⁵⁶⁵ last wick but co[ul]d not stay till sup[p]er. They goe to England when she is recovered, as doth Mrs Phipps⁵⁶⁶ affter she is brought to bed. They ear both in great tr[o]uble for Doctor Ardbuckll,⁵⁶⁷ as is every body that knew him. He did much good among the poor and was extramley charitable to them.

Tell my dear correspondent⁵⁶⁸ I will writ[e] so[o]ne to her. I pray God send you and all yours meny hap[p]y and comfortable years is my dear Lady Ann, the constant and sencear wish of your ever affect[i]onate a[un]t and most feathfull serv[an]t, Ka Conolly

[PS] Mrs Lowery⁵⁶⁹ and so ear your humbl[e] sarv[an]ts. [Tell] Kety [she] sho[ul]d

⁵⁵⁵ *Lege* coach.

⁵⁵⁶ Trinity College, Dublin.

⁵⁵⁷ Unidentified.

⁵⁵⁸ Unidentified.

⁵⁵⁹ Thomas Carter (d. 1763), MP for Trim, 1719–26, and for Hillsborough, 1727–60; master of the rolls, 1731–53; secretary of state for Ireland, 1755–63. He married in 1719 Mary Claxton, whose first cousin, Edward Lovett Pearce, built the couple a magnificent house at 9 Henrietta Street, Dublin. Their country residence was the Castle Martin estate, Co. Kildare, which Carter leased from the early 1730s, purchasing it outright in 1761: *HIP*; *DIB*; *ODNB*.

⁵⁶⁰ Unidentified.

⁵⁶¹ *Lege* secret.

⁵⁶² *Lege* prosecute.

⁵⁶³ *Lege* duchess, unidentified. This may be a disparaging observation by Katherine Conolly of a lady of her acquaintance.

⁵⁶⁴ *Lege* balls.

⁵⁶⁵ Elizabeth Mahon (d. 1756), daughter of Nicholas Mahon and Eleanor Blayney, married in 1734 Rev. Charles Talbot Blayney, 8th Baron Blayney of Monaghan, son of Cadwallader Blayney, 7th Baron Blayney and his wife Mary Touchet: GEC.

⁵⁶⁶ Unidentified.

⁵⁶⁷ Possibly Dr James Arbuckle (c. 1700–1745), son of a Dublin Presbyterian minister. He was educated at Glasgow University where he qualified as a doctor of medicine in 1729. Returning to Dublin he became a well-known figure in the literary world: Andrew Carpenter, *Verses in English from eighteenth-century Ireland* (Cork, 1998), p. 231.

⁵⁶⁸ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁵⁶⁹ Sarah (Sally) Lowry (*née* Corry) (1709–79): see letter no. 282, note 549.

s[e]arch her fathers pockets when a packet comes in for I am sure he forgets to give them to you some times.

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283. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 21 FEBRUARY 1746[/47]

A Thursday by the 3 packets [that] came in I had my dear Lady Ann's obliging letter of the 12[th] and thank God for the good account you and Mr Vivant⁵⁷⁰ gives me of your dear boy. I hope your nixt will confirm his recov[e]ry. I should be glad that you could give me as good [an] account of yourself, for the rumitissiam is a very teasing disorder.

As to our royeters,⁵⁷¹ I hope they will be a little quiet, for the tryals came on 2 days agoe. Sheridan⁵⁷² was clired⁵⁷³ of the assa[u]lt and Kally⁵⁷⁴ fined 1000 pound damages for Sheridan. There is another find allsoe. Some is gone out of town and I think an outlawry against them for contempt of court, and yet Martan⁵⁷⁵ now is wan that [is] gone off [that] had thre[a]tened. The collidge⁵⁷⁶ gentell-men will fight any ten of them and soe on till he fights them all, 380 of them. I still fear there will be mischiefe. I am much vexed that our neighbour Luttrell⁵⁷⁷ was so hot for the royeters, for the whole party is e[i]ther papists, convarts or knowen jackasses, not 4 of there party was such. I beli[e]ve there was never was kn[o]wen such a paper war, not a day but there is 20 papers of both sides and Mr Luckans,⁵⁷⁸ the appthogry for his advertism[en]t which I send you with this other paper.

As to Mrs Lowerys⁵⁷⁹ j[e]wells, I doubt not best [that] they are very prity for nobody has a better fancy than your ladyship. She i[n]tends to send you a bill this night if she can get Mr Glestandes⁵⁸⁰ to draw it. She sent twist but he was not at home.

Col[one]l Conyngham⁵⁸¹ is not so well today as he was yesterday. His favers⁵⁸² returned a littell. Capt[ain] Corry⁵⁸³ is much better. The gout is now out of his

⁵⁷⁰ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁵⁷¹ *Lege* rioters.

⁵⁷² Thomas Sheridan (1719–88), actor, educator, and the godson of Jonathan Swift. He was manager of Dublin's Aungier Street and Smock Alley theatres when a Galway 'gentleman', Kelly, made a drunken assault on one of the Smock Alley actresses at a performance of Vanburgh's *Aesop* on 19 January 1747. Sheridan forcibly expelled Kelly from the theatre – twice. However, Kelly's friends considered this an affront to a 'gentleman' and two nights later they stormed the stage causing damage, resulting in the trial of Kelly: *ODNB*; *DIB*.

⁵⁷³ *Lege* cleared.

⁵⁷⁴ The Galway 'gentleman' referred to in note 572 above.

⁵⁷⁵ Unidentified, see note 572.

⁵⁷⁶ Trinity College, Dublin.

⁵⁷⁷ Simon Luttrell (1713–87), MP in British House of Commons, 1755–80; created earl of Carhampton in the Irish peerage in 1785: *HoP*: 1754–90.

⁵⁷⁸ Charles Lucas (1713–71), apothecary, physician and politician: *DIB*.

⁵⁷⁹ Sarah (Sally) Lowry (*née* Corry) (1709–79): see letter no. 282.

⁵⁸⁰ Unidentified.

⁵⁸¹ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁸² *Lege* fevers.

⁵⁸³ Capt. Edmund Leslie (d. 1764), who assumed the surname Corry.

stomack and back and come into his feet, tho[ugh] the p[a]in is great, yet he is out of danger.

20 p[e]opell has and is come in soe I must make this [a] shorter letter then I intended. You and yours has my prayers and blessing very sincerely, for I am with great truth, dear madam, sencerely your, Ka: Conolly.

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284. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANN CONOLLY, 2 APRIL 1747

My d[ea]r, d[ea]r, good, Lady Ann Conolly,

By the packets that came in last Friday I had a letter from my d[ea]r Kety⁵⁸⁴[w] home I pray God to bless and preserve her to her fri[e]nds. I rejoys that poor Fanay⁵⁸⁵ is soe well recovered. I pity you and am gri[e]ved for the mallancolly winter you have had.

I wrot[e] leatly e[i]ther to you or Kety, that poor Roger Jones⁵⁸⁶ was very ill. Its above a month sences my poor sister was sent for. She toke a docter and I never thought he wo[ul]d recover, for he had soe bad a const[itu]tion that there was littell hopes he co[ul]d get the better. Col[one]l Conyngham⁵⁸⁷ sent docters twist or thriss⁵⁸⁸ there, but all to noe purpos, for he deyed a Sunday and is to be burryed this day. He has left a poor miserable famally⁵⁸⁹ and I fear in very bad carcumstances.

A Wednesday came in 2 packets, I had 2 letters from you of the 24[th] and 26[th]. I am sor[r]y you give your self the tr[o]uble of writing soe often. I wonder Mr Clemons⁵⁹⁰ has not bine to weat on your ladyship.

If I wear sure I co[ul]d not get a gray wostit damask,⁵⁹¹ I wo[ul]d put up such as I can get hear. All that I want is to know wither its [to] be got or not.

I wrot[e] to Kety that I h[e]ard you had wrot[e] for a house and bid her tell you you and yours sho[ul]d be as welcome hear as if it wear your one and that when you came over, yourself co[ul]d chouse better what wo[ul]d pleas[e] you then any body elces⁵⁹² co[ul]d. Mr Clark⁵⁹³ tells me he has spoke ab[ou]t Mr St Leger[s] house⁵⁹⁴ neer me and as you wo[ul]d be soe neer me it wo[ul]d be a comfort to me.

⁵⁸⁴ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁵⁸⁵ Francis (Fanny) Conolly (*ante* 1745–1817).

⁵⁸⁶ Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Mary (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765) and Richard Jones (1662–1729).

⁵⁸⁷ Henry (Harry) Conyngham (1707–81).

⁵⁸⁸ *Lege* thrice.

⁵⁸⁹ The Jones lineage is unclear: Roger Jones (d. 1747), son of Richard (1662–1729) and Mary Jones (*née* Conyngham) (1675–1765), married Elenor (unknown) and they had at least three surviving children, a son Richard (1735–90), MP for Killybegs, Co. Donegal, who married Elizabeth Hall, Katherine (Kitty) (b. 1740) who married James Glascock in 1765, and Anne.

⁵⁹⁰ Probably Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) who married Hannah Gore (d. 1783) in 1729.

⁵⁹¹ *Lege* worsted damask. This is a reversible figured fabric of silk, wool, linen or cotton, with a pattern formed by weaving. Damasks are woven with one warp yarn and one weft yarn, usually with the pattern in warp-faced satin weave and the ground in weft-faced or sateen weave: David Jenkins (ed), *The Cambridge history of western textiles* (Cambridge, 2003).

⁵⁹² *Lege* else.

⁵⁹³ Probably the Conolly agent Michael Clarke: see letters nos 91, 271, 286 and 288.

⁵⁹⁴ Grangemellon House, Tankardstown, Co. Kildare, home of the St Leger family.

I want comfort, I am still very ill with my cough and such a sinking in my spirits that I am very bad, Gods will be done. I have lived long but I hope I shall see you and yours hear before I dey. I am going to begine assis milk which last year did me good. My love and best wishes attends you and yours. I pray God bless you all which is the sencear wish of my d[ea]r, d[ea]r, Lady Ann. Y[ou]r affect[ionate] an[u]t and most feathfull serv[an]t, Ka Conolly

[PS] I'll writ[e] nixt post to my d[ea]r Kety.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

285. KATHERINE CONOLLY, [MAIDWELL?], TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, 5 APRIL 1747

Your kind letter dear Lady Ann I return my sincerest thanks for, and you do me great justice in saying that I shou[ld] feel for you in your own and familys illness, but I hope by this time each injoys a state of health according to my wishes, and then I can assure you your dull hours wou[ld] terminate in as much brightness as the sun does at this instant shine in the heavens. It is happy when children has the small-pox when so young as yours is.⁵⁹⁵ I heartily wish it was well over with my two sons and youngest girl.

I have had a letter from poor Mrs Courtney who gives me but a mallancholy account of Mr Courtneys⁵⁹⁶ health, tho[ugh] I find [pages missing]

IAA, Castletown papers, J/2

286. KATHERINE CONOLLY, DUBLIN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 14 APRIL 1747

[Written on the envelope] Mr Grey the Commissiooner is dead. He died yesterday afternoon at 5 a clock. Dublin 1747, from, K C.

My dear Lady Ann,

I had yours and Kety's⁵⁹⁷ yesterday and as you have taken a house soe near me, senas I cannot have you its a great ple[a]sure to me that I can see some of you every day. I am fare from well and the latter end of this wick [intend] to goe to Castelltown for a wick to trey what the change of ear will doe with [me], for I have had a very sever[e] cough now neer 3 months. I have injoyed⁵⁹⁸ a long shear⁵⁹⁹ of health and hap[p]yness for meny years, but like all things in this world it has had its changes, some whit[e], some black, Gods will be done.

You told me a great pi[e]ces of news leatly, Kety Bumberys⁶⁰⁰ marri[a]ge, now I most tell you as great a piss of news, tho[ugh] of another sort. Last Friday Mrs

⁵⁹⁵ The Conolly children: Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–1799), Thomas (1737–1803), Caroline (*c.* 1741–1817), James (Jamey) (*b. ante* 1745), Anne, Harriet (1744–71) and Frances (*ante* 1745–1817).

⁵⁹⁶ Unidentified couple.

⁵⁹⁷ Katherine (Kety) Conolly (1733–71).

⁵⁹⁸ *Lege* enjoyed.

⁵⁹⁹ *Lege* share.

⁶⁰⁰ Unidentified member of the Bunbury family of Kill (Killmagarvogue), Co. Carlow.

Rochford that was Miss Hames⁶⁰¹ was to make me a visit and a Satterday supt a brood,⁶⁰² and in 2 hours affter she got home was saff[e]ly deliv[e]red of a littel daughter, but she and the child well. I doe not hear Lady Alice⁶⁰³ in much joy.

In my last I told you that Bety the nursery made was deed.⁶⁰⁴ As she had the charge of your house and things I was tr[o]ubled for her, but it was a sister of yours [maid] that came to her sister at the mill for the ear that deyed.

I most desire the favear of you to give Mrs Bety Woodcock⁶⁰⁵ a great charge when she is at Coventry⁶⁰⁶ on her j[o]urney to Struton⁶⁰⁷ to bespake six yards of the best Coventry Blew Flanning⁶⁰⁸ and that it may be offten dyed and re[a]dy ag[ains]t you come there, for it sho[ul]d be deayd 5 or six times. They say 9 times is the charme,⁶⁰⁹ but I desire I may get it as you can, for I have great demands for it. Mrs Montgomery at Felltrom⁶¹⁰ has got a great p[a]ine in her bre[a]st and as her mother deyed of a sore bre[a]st, the good woman is frigh[t]en[ed]. I have sent almost all I have to her.

I have noe news to tell you. If a packet comes in before I seall this I'll tell you. No packet. Give Mr Vivant⁶¹¹ his letter when you see him. Love and sarvices to you and Mr Conolly.⁶¹² Pray [ask] him to answer Mr Clarks⁶¹³ letter about Kelly⁶¹⁴ emedetly⁶¹⁵ for I am a great suffer[er] by him and that the leases was not singed before he went away.

My blessing to all the dear children,⁶¹⁶ I'll writ[e] to my love Kety so[o]ne. I am dear, dear, madam, with the truest love and esteem, your ever affactionate a[u]nt and feathfull sarv[an]t, Ka: Conolly

⁶⁰¹ Unidentified.

⁶⁰² *Lege* abroad.

⁶⁰³ Unidentified.

⁶⁰⁴ *Lege* dead.

⁶⁰⁵ Unidentified; possibly a member of the Woodcock family of Killurin, Co. Wexford.

⁶⁰⁶ Coventry, Warwickshire, England.

⁶⁰⁷ Stretton Hall, Stretton, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

⁶⁰⁸ Coventry blue flannel. Coventry blue cloth was highly sought after in Europe due to its non-fading qualities. Blue was a colour frequently used on textiles since it was a good fast dye under almost all conditions. It was therefore a common item stocked by retailers selling textiles.

⁶⁰⁹ *Lege* best, ultimate.

⁶¹⁰ Mary Montgomery (*née* Franklin) (d. 1758), wife of Thomas Montgomery (1700–61), MP for Lifford, Co. Donegal who leased the estate of Feltrim and Abbeville, Co. Dublin. Thomas was the son of Col Alexander Montgormery of Ballyleck, Co. Monaghan and his wife Elizabeth Cole of Mount Florence. He married Mary Franklin against his father's wishes and was disinherited. His father's will records 'for as much as my son, Thomas, has proved a very undutiful and disobedient child, I only leave and bequeath him the sum of one shilling and no more': <http://www.abbevillehouse.ie/abbeville%20history.pdf> (accessed 4 Apr. 2015).

⁶¹¹ Tutor to Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁶¹² William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶¹³ The Conolly agent Michael Clarke: see letters nos 92, 271, 2843 and 286.

⁶¹⁴ Unidentified.

⁶¹⁵ *Lege* immediately.

⁶¹⁶ The children were Katherine (Kety) (1733–71), Jane (*ante* 1736–99), Thomas (1737–1803), James (Jamey) (b. *ante* 1745), Anne, Harriet (1744–71) and Frances (*ante* 1745–1817) Conolly. Caroline, who married John Hobart (1723–93), 2nd earl of Buckingham, was not born until 1755 and died in 1817.

[PS] I am within these 2 hours better then I have bine this wick past.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

287. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANNE CONOLLY, LONDON, 25

APRIL 1747

My dear, dear, Lady Ann Conolly,

I wo[ul]d have answered yours of the 11[th] so[o]nner but for fear of your writing beca[u]se I know it most be une[a]sey to you and am trully gri[e]ved by all letters from London to hear your rumatissam continiues still tr[o]ublsome to you. But instead of comeing to Ierland as you intend, I beg you for God sake goe emedetly to Bath.⁶¹⁷ Those watters ear best for that disorder of any thing I know. Meny has fo[u]nd great good by them and you may drink them till the middell of June or longer if the we[a]ther doe not come in too hot.

Your house will not be fit for you before the midell of June, if then. You may send the childrin to Strutton⁶¹⁸ and if you think of sending them hear before you come your self, I shall take the same care of them as if they wear my one,⁶¹⁹ and as I love them as if they wear my one no care shall be wanting. Consider your husband,⁶²⁰ those dear childrin and all your fri[e]nds, and espeshally my self how unhap[p]y we sho[ul]d be if you continiued ill. It's a most ted[i]ouss turmenting dissorder. I labo[u]red under it for some years and when I was able I went to Bath, but I was better before I got there – think of it my dear madam, you have no time to loss.⁶²¹

I will say noe more but I pray God drect you and send you health, and all the comfort this world can give is the sencear prayers and best wishes of my dear Lady Ann[s], your ever affactionate a[u]nt and most feathfull fri[e]nd, Ka: Conolly

[PS] I cannot say I am much better as yet for the co[u]ntery. Sister Person is a littell better but fare from well, the gout is got out of her stomack to her feet. Little Mr Conyngham⁶²² is thought to be in a fear way of recovery.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

288. KATHERINE CONOLLY, CASTLETOWN, TO LADY ANN CONOLLY, 2 JULY 1747

I had my dear Lady Ann Conollys of the 19[th]. It gives me great joy that Mr Conolly⁶²³ has wrot[e] for the youth⁶²⁴ tho[ugh] I have not seen Mr Clark⁶²⁵ senas I had yours.

⁶¹⁷ Bath, Somerset, England, a spa town.

⁶¹⁸ Stretton Hall, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

⁶¹⁹ *Lege* own.

⁶²⁰ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶²¹ *Lege* lose.

⁶²² This probably refers to a son of Henry Conyngham (1706–81) and his wife Ellen (*née* Merrett) (1724–1816). Following their marriage in 1744 Ellen miscarried their first child. Henry died *dsp*.

⁶²³ William Conolly (1706–54).

⁶²⁴ It is unclear exactly who Katherine is referring to here, particularly her use of the word 'youth'.

⁶²⁵ Probably Michael Clarke, the Conolly agent: see letters nos 92, 284 and 286.

We have had for a wick past very bad we[a]ther, great r[a]ines. I have not seen e[i]ther lord or young Lady Killdear, I hear they intend being at Courtown.⁶²⁶ They have bine at Dollerstown,⁶²⁷ a hunting house about 20 mill[e]s from this, and Lady dowager [Kildare]⁶²⁸ is with them, for they tell me Cartown is not yet re[a]dy for them. And I am told it has cost the old lady above 20000 po[u]nds, that that [*sic*] she makes them a present of it. She is now furnishing it and must now hold her hand, for the great sume of mon[e]y the old lord⁶²⁹ left is neer an end, and yesterday his lordship⁶³⁰ was in the 4 Co[u]rts passing fines and recoverys that he may have it in his power to sell. He has purchased Kelleystown⁶³¹ from Mr Maxwell⁶³² and he had great dif[f]icultey in reassing⁶³³ the mon[e]y. He has spent a vast sumes and its sayd got noe fortune. This is all I can tell you of him now.

[No] news in Dublin. Miss Harveys⁶³⁴ marri[a]ge is not yet made publick, but they ear certa[i]nly married as everybody thinks. I have now a good set of compeny hear; Mrs Montgomery,⁶³⁵ Capt Corry and his wife,⁶³⁶ Mrs Nisbet⁶³⁷ and 2 or 3 more. But all this doth not give me soe much pleasure as the hopes of seeing you and yours hear. I shall long to hear you l[e]ave Straton.⁶³⁸ I am sor[r]y for my poor Tomey,⁶³⁹ but such you[n]g mens grife at parting with there fri[e]nds is so[o]ne over by a j[o]urney. I pray God bless him and all yours is the sencear wish of my dear, dear, madam, and your ever affectionate a[u]nt and warm fri[e]nd, Ka: Conolly

[PS] My dear Kety, I love you deerly.

IAA, Castletown papers, A/9

289. [FRAGMENT IN KATHERINE CONOLLY'S HAND, N.D.]

Send no let[t]ers for me to Jeney Sampsons⁶⁴⁰ for som[e]tim[e]s they miscarry.

NLI, MS 41,578/18

⁶²⁶ Lt Gen. James Fitzgerald (1722–73), 20th earl of Kildare and Lady Emily Lennox (1731–1814); following their marriage Emily and James began a major renovation and improvement project at their country residence, Carton House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

⁶²⁷ Dollardstown House, near Athy, Co. Kildare.

⁶²⁸ Lady Mary Fitzgerald, dowager countess of Kildare: see letter no. 268.

⁶²⁹ Robert FitzGerald, 19th earl of Kildare (1675–1743).

⁶³⁰ 20th earl of Kildare.

⁶³¹ Kelleystown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

⁶³² Possibly referring to John Maxwell, lawyer: see letters nos 263, 253 and 255.

⁶³³ *Lege* raising.

⁶³⁴ Unidentified.

⁶³⁵ Mary Montgomery (*née* Franklin) (d. 1758), of Feltrim and Abbeville, Co. Dublin.

⁶³⁶ Captain Edmund Leslie (d. 1764) who assumed the surname Corry, and his wife Martha (Matty) (1704/05–c. 1764) of Castle Coole, Co. Fermanagh.

⁶³⁷ Unidentified member of the Nesbitt family of Woodhall, Co. Donegal.

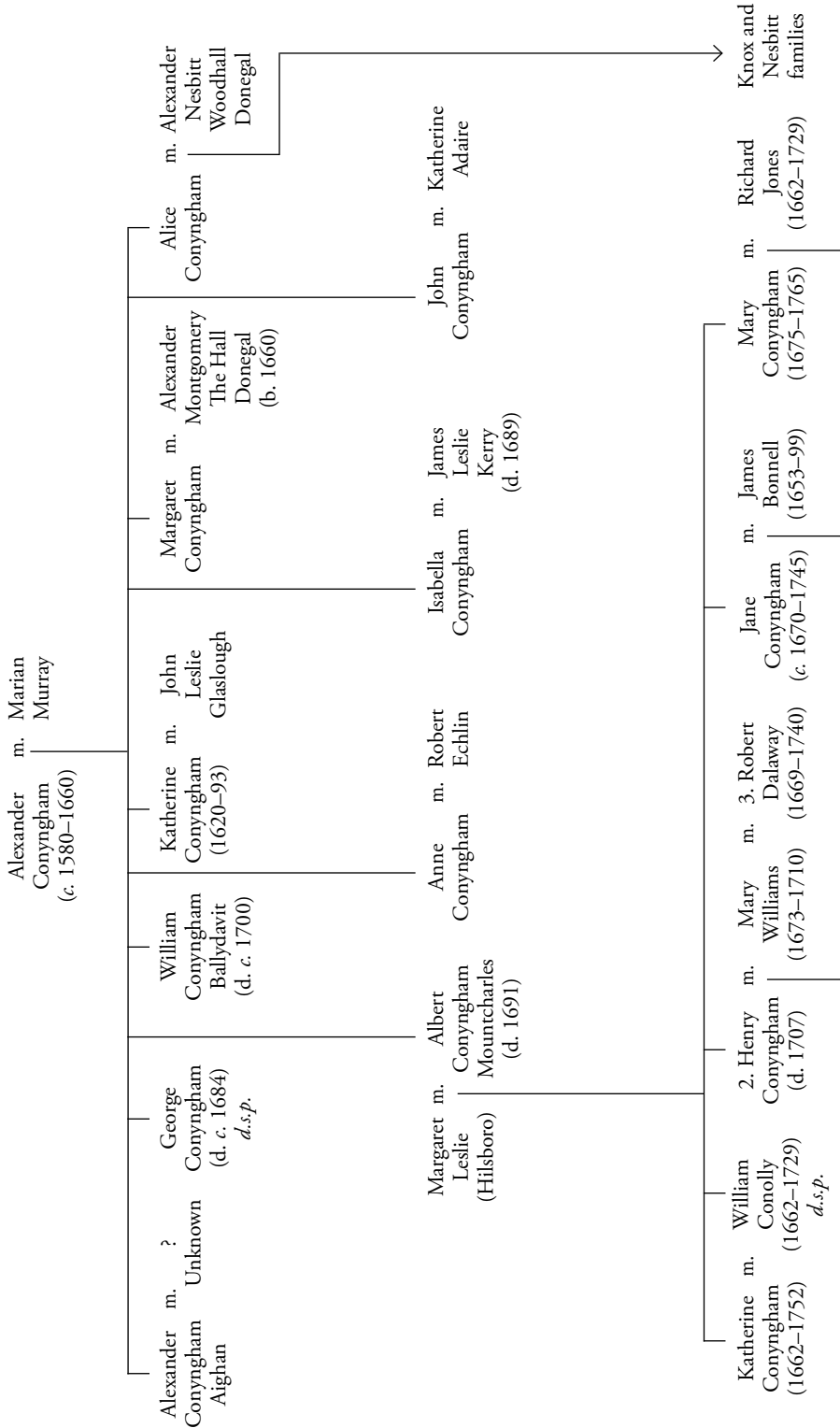
⁶³⁸ Stretton Hall, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

⁶³⁹ Thomas Conolly (1737–1803).

⁶⁴⁰ Jane Sampson (*née* Jones) (1717–85).

APPENDIX – PEDIGREES

Table 1: The Conyngham family of Mountcharles, Co. Donegal



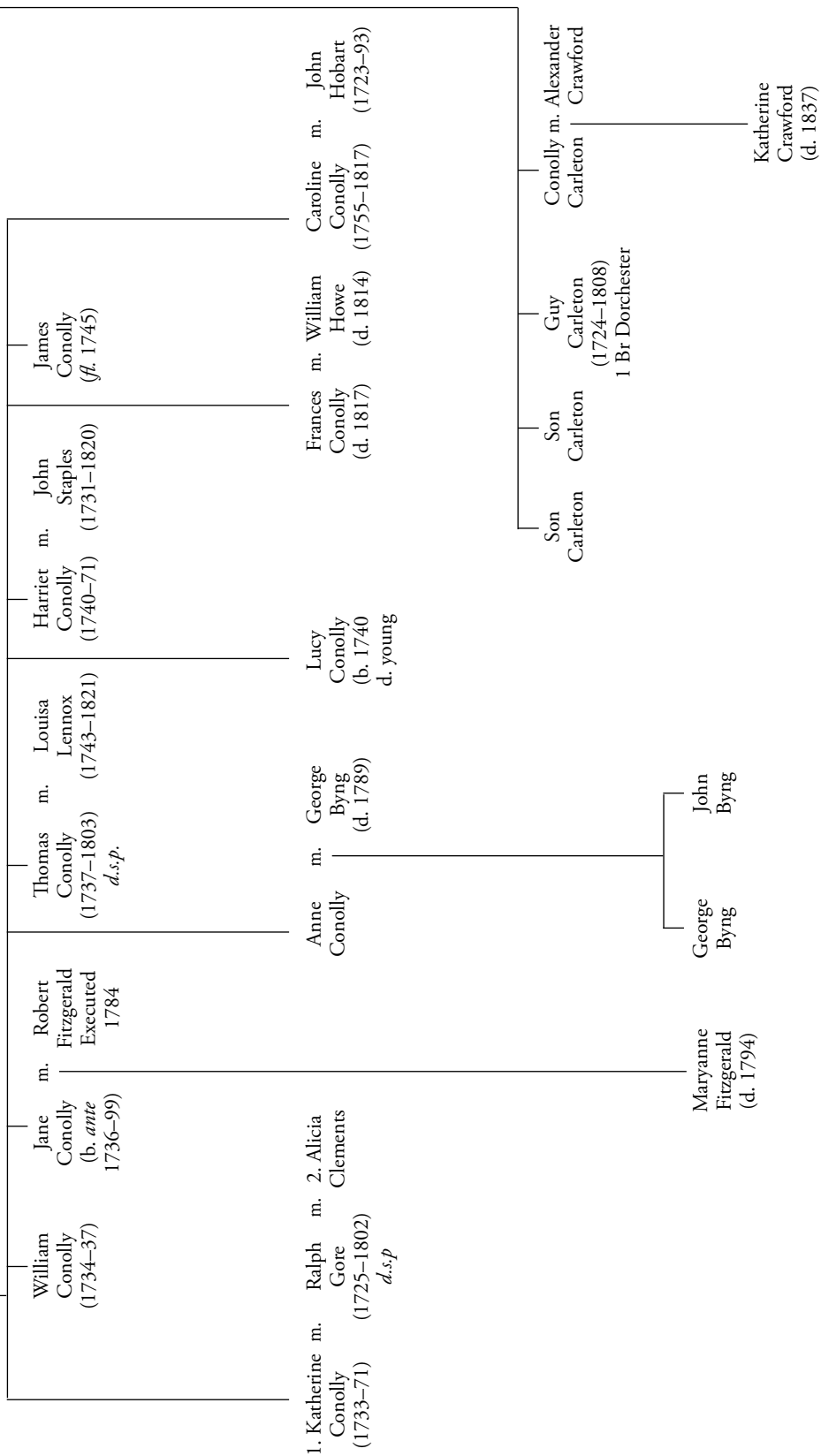
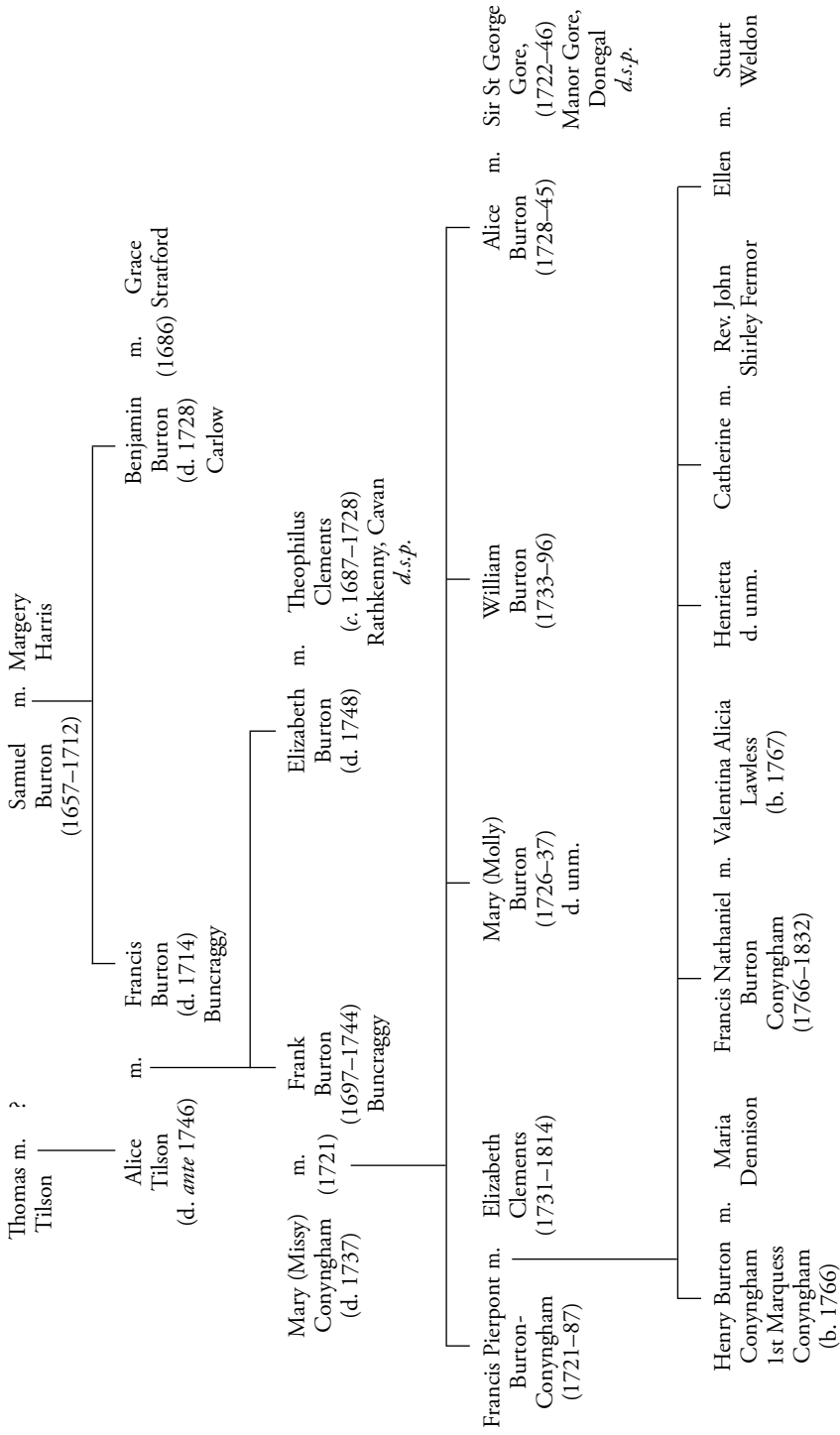


Table 3: The Burton family of Buncraggy, Co. Clare



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