

'Shortt, Mrs EF'

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SHORTT, MRS. E.F.

'13/'15

LETTER RECEIVED.
15 MAR 1915

The Manor House.
Martinstown.
Dorchester.

13 March. 1915.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 10 March. As you suggest this is not perhaps a propitious time for expecting a fair price for documents of historical interest. You evidently consider the price £300-400 suggested by Captain Shortt in 1914, "now nearly a twelvemonth ago," was then reasonable.

I cannot help saying that by your request of 31 March, 1914, to be allowed time to place the matter, with the details supplied by Mr. F.B. de Sausmarez, before Mr. Wellcome, who was then travelling abroad, you effectually stopped Mrs. Shortt from trying to sell when the market was favourable, i.e. from March to August 1914, and therefore I cannot see why you should expect her to let you have them at a lower rate than that first asked.

Possibly after the War, if no suitable offer has been previously made, she may be able to dispose of them profitably.

I am

Yrs. truly

E. F. Shortt

H.M.M.

10 March 1915.

Madam,

I regret the unavoidable delay in replying to your letter of the 25th ult. with reference to the Napoleon documents. I did not understand from your letter that Mrs. Shortt would not entertain parting with the documents separately at the price she mentioned. I still consider that £160. is a prohibitive price to us for the documents at the present time. As I have no doubt you know during the period of the War we are now passing through, and probably for a considerable time afterwards, there is and will be no demand or market for things of an historical interest. When Captain Shortt wrote to me in 1914, now nearly twelvemonths ago, conditions were very different. I am sorry therefore that Mrs. Shortt will not part with the documents at the prices you mentioned.

Thanking you for the trouble you have taken in the matter,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mrs. E.F. Shortt.

H.M.M.

24 February 1915.

Dear Madam,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 23rd inst. I did not understand that Mrs. Shortt was only willing to sell the three documents altogether, and that she was not at present prepared to part with any or all of them. You stated the lowest amount that Mrs. Shortt would take for the documents individually, and I naturally understood that she would be prepared to part with them at that price. Of course under the circumstances if she is offering them to other purchasers, I do not know that I can allow my offer to remain open for long.

I am still willing to make an offer for the original of the Post Mortem signed report also, but I understand from your letter that \$160. is the lowest amount Mrs. Shortt would take for it, and that is absolutely prohibitive for us.

Thanking you,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Feb. 25th 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of the 24th inst.

If you will kindly refer to my letter of the 21st inst. you will see that, after quoting the lowest prices Mr. Shott would take for the documents individually or collectively, I said, "But Mr. Shott still considers the documents as Originals, worth the sum at

first suggested, viz. £300 - £400,
& as she is now entering into com-
munication with another possible
purchaser, I cannot at present
promise that the least amount
would be accepted."

Also you say that £160 is an
"absolutely prohibitive" amount
for you to offer for the original
of the Port Moresby signed report.
But in Captain Shortt's letter

to you of March 30th 1914 he wrote
"If you think Mr. Wellcome would
consider the price (between £300-
£400) prohibitive it would hardly
be worth while bringing the
paper up to Town". Yet you
wrote to him, early this month,
asking him to bring the papers.
Surely you would value the
signed "original", as worth at
least as much as the other
two documents together?

I was under the impression that
before my brother communicated
with you. I had typed copies
of the paper for M^r. J. B. de Sans-
marez to send you -

I am

Yrs truly

E. J. Pratt

Feb. 23rd 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter
of the 22nd.
I thought I had made it clear
in my letter of the 21st that
Mrs. North is already in correspondence
with another possible purchaser
of the Napoleon documents, so that
she is not at present prepared to
part with any or all of them, at

the "lowest prices" which I quoted.
If, however, you wish your offer
of £10 for the (No. 2) Post Mortem
Report, unsigned to stand, you
shall have it ^{later}, if it is not
otherwise sold.

You do not say what you consider
"a reasonable offer" for (No. 1.) The
Post Mortem Report, signed -

M^{rs} Shorth considers the amount
she asks eminently reasonable,

the document being, as she
believes, unique.

I am

gr- truly

E. J. Short

H.M.M.

22 February 1915.

Dear Madam,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 21st inst. acknowledging the safe receipt of the three Napoleon Documents, and for letting me know the price that is asked for the same.

I am sorry I overlooked your query as to the Post Mortem Report. The contents of this Report are first described by Dr. Chaplain in 1913 in his Biography of Thomas Shortt. He describes the original draft being signed by four doctors, and also the words which were deleted by order of Sir Hudson Lowe. Again in the Report of the XVIIth International Congress of Medicine, Section History of Medicine, there is a note on page 177 of Dr. Thomas Shortt's Account from unpublished documents among the Shortt Papers, in which again is given the sentence that is crossed out and refers to the foot-note that was inserted by the order of Sir Hudson Lowe.

I am afraid the price Mrs. Shortt asks for the documents collectively is prohibitive, but I shall be pleased to purchase

No. 2. The Post Mortem Report, unsigned, for the amount of Ten Pounds as stated, and if you will kindly forward it to me per registered post insured for that amount, I will forward a cheque for the same on receipt. If Mrs. Shortt would entertain a reasonable offer also for No. 1. The Post Mortem Report, signed, I should be pleased to know.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mrs. E.F. Shortt,
The Manor House,
Martinstown,
Dorchester.

February 21, 1915.

The Manor House ,
Martinstown ,
Dorchester .

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the three Napoleon documents .

In reply to your letter of the 19th re the price of the documents individually or collectively , the lowest amount that Mrs Shortt would take for the documents,individually,would be :

- X
- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Original Copy of the P.M. Report , signed by <u>4</u> doctors &c | £160. |
| 2. The P.M.Report , unsigned | £10. |
| 3. Dr. Arnott's Daily Report | £45. |
| or , for the three documents collectively | £200. |

But Mrs. Shortt still considers the documents , as Originals , worth the sum at first suggested , viz.£300-£400 ,and as she is now entering into communication with another possible purchaser ,I cannot at present promise that the lowest amount would be accepted .

In your letter of Feb. 11th to Mrs. F.de S. Shortt you mention that the Post Mortem Report has been published by Dr. Chaplain . I wrote to ask you where & when - but you have not answered . I hear to-day that my sister is under the impression that Dr. Chaplain published the Post Mortem Report signed by 5 doctors in his first book

"The Illness and Death of Napoleon ." Were you referring to this ?

I am

Yours truly ,

E. F. Shortt

H.M.M.

19 February 1915.

Dear Madam,

Your letter of the 18th inst. duly to hand this morning from which I note that Mrs. Shortt senior refuses the offer made in my letter. I am therefore returning the three documents to you per registered post herewith, and should be glad if you would kindly acknowledge their safe arrival.

Now that I have made a definite offer, I should be glad if you would kindly let me know what is the lowest amount Mrs. Shortt will accept for the three documents, or the value she places on each separately.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

18 February 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge
your letter of the 17th saying
that if I could settle the matter
without delay you would go to
Fifty pounds as a maximum
for the three documents, & asking
for an answer by return -
I am writing, at my mother's
request to refuse the offer.

As "Originals" she still considers
them worth more than you
are willing to give -
Will you therefore kindly
return me the paper -

I am

Yrs truly

E. F. Shurt

H.M.M.

17 February 1915.

Dear Madam,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 16th inst. with reference to the Napoleon documents. If you could settle the matter without delay I would go to Fifty Pounds as a maximum for the three documents, but as I am in negotiation for another purchase and money is limited, I should like an answer by Friday morning if possible.

Trusting this will not be inconvenient,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mrs. E.F. Shortt,
The Manor House,
Martinstown,
Dorchester.

The Manor House ,
Martinstown ,
Dorchester .

February 16 , 1915.

Dear Sir ,

In reply to your letter of the 15th , I shall be glad if you will retain the documents till I can hear from my brothers ,who are both on duty in the North , whether they are willing to accept your offer of £45 .

Could you not make it £50 for the three documents ,& if this is impossible would you tell me what you would be willing to give for each separately . I should much like to know what you consider the relative value of the three documents .

I am

yrs. truly

E. J. Sherratt .

H.M.M.

15 February 1915.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 13th inst. with reference to the three documents concerning Napoleon, whenever such records have been published, it greatly detracts from their original value.

As you are unable to state what you value each document at, on taking the whole matter into consideration, we should be willing to offer you the sum of Forty-five Pounds for the three. I should be glad if you would kindly let me know as early as possible if this meets with your family's acceptance as under the present circumstances when purchases are being restricted, this offer can only remain open for a short time. Kindly let me know by return if I should retain the documents meanwhile, or send them back to you at once.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mrs. E.F. Shortt,
The Manor House,
Martinstown,
Dorchester.

Feb. 13th - 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

XHS

My sister-in-law has forwarded
me your letter of February 11th.
We were not aware that the
Port Mortem Report had been
published by Dr. Chaplain, though
it was alluded to in the extract
I sent you. I wrote to you
about Dr. Bennett's Report last

Monday - We always regarded
the value of the papers as con-
sisting in their being Originals,
on which the information depended
which is more than a merely
sentimental value - If, however,
you will make me an offer
for each of the three documents,
I will lay it before the family.
Yours

graciously E. F. Shorth

Feb. 17th 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

I shall be much
obliged if you will tell me
when & in what form J.
Chaplain published the
"Original" of the Post Mortem
Report -

I am
yours truly
E. J. Short

H.M.M.

11 February 1915.

Madam,

I have now very carefully examined the documents connected with the death of Napoleon Bonaparte which you have been kind enough to send me for inspection. I find they have all been practically published before, and two of them in extenso. The Post Mortem Report was published by Dr. Chaplain, and Dr. Arnott's daily Report was printed in his pamphlet entitled "An Account of the last Illness, Decease and Post Mortem Appearances of Napoleon Bonaparte, to which is added a Letter from Dr. Arnott to Lieut.-General Sir Hudson Lowe, K.C.B. giving a succinct statement of Napoleon Bonaparte's Disease and Demise, 1822." The latter is your document word for word in print.

You will see that the contents of these documents are already known, and so they throw no further light from a scientific point of view on the death of Napoleon, which I hoped they would, and their value as documents is a purely sentimental one. I am sorry therefore I could not offer you anything like the amount which I understand from Captain Shortt's letter that he wrote me in March

last is required for them, but if you will accept an offer in these time, and will kindly let me know what value you place separately on each of the three documents, I should be pleased to make an offer for one or the three of them. I am retaining the documents in the safe here until I hear from you in reply.

Thanking you,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mrs. C.F. Shortt,
Bicester Lodge,
Poulner,
Ringwood.

- (1) The Draft report signed by four doctors only is fully described in

Thomas Shortt & Arnold Chaplin M.D.

pp 22, 23.

(Copied on sheet herewith)

- (2) Arnott's Report is printed in

An Account of the Last Illness, Disease and Post Mortem Appearances of Napoleon Bonaparte by Archibald Arnott M.D. To which is added a Letter from Dr. Arnott to Lieutenant-General Sir Hudson Lowe K.C.B. &c giving a succinct statement of Napoleon Bonaparte's Disease and Demise. pp. 33-39.

London, John Murray, 1822

H.M.M.

9 February 1915.

Madam,

I have received the three documents concerning Napoleon Bonaparte quite safely, and will examine them at the earliest opportunity, and will write to you again in the course of a few days. Meanwhile I will insure them while they are in our possession.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.H.S.T.

Mrs. C.F. Shortt,
Bicester Lodge,
Poulner,
Ringwood.

BICESTER LODGE,
POULNER,
RINGWOOD.

Feb. 8. 1915.

Dear Sir

I am sending ^{the}
documents about Napoleon
today by registered
post & should be glad
to hear if they have
arrived safely.

Yr. faithfully
Clare F. Shott (Mrs)



C. J. S. Thompson Esq.
The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum
54^A Wigmore Street
London W.

Feb. 8th 1915.

THE MANOR HOUSE,

LONDON W

MARTINSTOWN,

DORCHESTER.

My sister, Mrs. Scott

tell me that she believes
Dr. Arnott's Report has been
published, but that the copies
are very rare -

Yours truly

E. F. Scott

4 February 1915.

Madam,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 3rd inst. with reference to the documents connected with Napoleon Bonaparte and for the extract you have sent me from Mr. Arnold Chaplin's Biography of Thomas Shortt in which an allusion is made to them.

I should be very pleased to see your sister Mrs. T.C.R. Scott if she could call here with the documents. Will you kindly ask her to make an appointment with me, preferably in the morning between ten and twelve o'clock, so that I may make sure of being here when she calls. If she is unable to come, will you forward the documents per registered post (insured), and I will return them to you after examination.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Miss E.F. Shortt,
The Manor House,
Martinstown.

Feb. 5th 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for
your letter of yesterday -
I am writing by this post
to ask my sister-in-law, M^{rs}.
J. de S. Shorth to forward you
the documents per registered
post (insured) on Monday next.

I am

Yrs. truly

E. J. Shorth

Feb. 3^d. 1915

THE MANOR HOUSE,
MARTINSTOWN,
DORCHESTER.

Dear Sir

My brother, Captain F. de S.
Shott, R.S.F. has forwarded
me your letter about the
original document connected with
the death of Napoleon Bonaparte.
I am quite sure that the
papers have never been published,
but I enclose a copy of an
extract from F. Arnold Chaplin's

Biography of my grand-father,
referring to the "original draft"
of the post-mortem in my
mother's possession -

It would be rather difficult
for me to take the papers up
to town myself, but I am writing
to ask my eldest sister, M^{rs} J. C. O.
Scott, whether she can manage
it - She would be better qualified

than myself to answer any
questions. If she cannot go up
to town at present, I suppose
we had better forward you
the documents by post.

I am

Yrs. truly

E. J. Shorth.

2.2.1915.

DEPOT,
ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS,
AYR.

Dear Mr Thompson,

My wife has sent me on your letter of
the 29th Jan'y re Napoleon documents.
I am doing duty here during the war, & cannot
get away at present, so I have sent your letter
on to my sister, asking her or another sister if

they could make an appointment with you
to bring the originals for inspection. I'm not a-
ware of the documents ever having been pub-
lished but my sisters would be better able to
tell you than I should.

Yours faithfully,

F. de S. North.

POST



LETTER RECEIVED.

1 FEB 1915



C. J. Thompson Esq.
The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum
54^A Wignmore St.
London W.

I have forwarded your letter to my
husband who is working at his
Dipst at Agr. I hope you will
hear from him or his sister in the
course of a few days in reply to
your letter. He will not have the docu-
ments by him so there may be some
little delay. I also he is very busy
just at the present moment, but I am sure
he will attend to it at his earliest opportunity.
Jan 30. 1913. C. F. Shortt. (Jr.).

"After the autopsy was concluded, Shortt proceeded to draw up official report of the appearances noticed. He had directed Henry the Assistant Surgeon of the 66th Regiment, to take notes while the examination was in progress, and these notes apparently formed the basis of the report. Now, in the "Lowe Papers" (vol. 20, 157) the fact is mentioned that the original draft of the official report contained, after the word "diaphragm", the words "and the liver was perhaps a little larger than natural", and that these words were deleted in the final copy. No explanation is given of the reason for this omission, nor is it stated by whose authority the change was made. But in the possession of Mrs Shortt is the original draft of the official report. It is in Dr. Shortt's handwriting, and is marked also in his handwriting, "original draft". In this interesting document the words, "and perhaps the liver was a little larger than natural," are crossed out, and a footnote says:--"N.B. The words obliterated were suppressed by order of Sir Hudson Lowe. Signed Thomas Shortt, P.M.O." It seems impossible, therefore, to resist the conclusion that the official report of the post-mortem examination, three original copies of which are in existence, was altered, at Lowe's command until it represented the view held at Plantation House. If this be so, it is of little value as a true description of the appearances observed. This original draft is singular also in being signed by four doctors only, for Dr. Livingstone's name is absent, whereas to the final document that surgeon attaches his signature. For a reason which is not quite apparent, Livingstone left the post-mortem room before the conclusion of the examination, and this action may have led Lowe to wonder whether he had been sent away by Shortt's orders."

H.M.M.

29 January 1915.

Dear Captain Shortt,

Some time ago last year you very kindly wrote to me concerning some original documents connected with the death of Napoleon Bonaparte which were in your mother's possession. I forwarded the particulars you then sent me to Mr. Wellcome who was abroad. In the meantime your letter had got mislaid, and I have just come across it again, and should be glad if you would kindly let me have some further particulars concerning the documents. Better still, should you not be away, could you arrange to call and see me here by appointment, and bring the originals for inspection?

It is possible that you may be at the Front, but I thought that I would write to you while the matter was fresh in my mind, so that should you still have the documents for disposal we might consider the matter.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Hmm

31 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 30th inst. with reference to the Napoleon documents that Mr. F. de Saunarez spoke to me about. Before you trouble to bring the originals to town for my inspection, as you so kindly offer, I should like to place the matter before Mr. Wellcome who is at present travelling abroad, and to give him particulars of the details that Mr. de Saunarez left with me. On hearing from him, I will communicate with you again on the matter.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C. T.

Captain F. de S. Shortt,
Bicester Lodge,
Poulner,
Ringwood.

BICESTER LODGE,
POULNER,
RINGWOOD.

30th March, 1914.

Dear Mr Thompson,

I hear from my cousin, Mr Fred. de Saumarez,
that you are interested in the Napoleon documents
at present in my Mother's possession, viz: (i) the original
copy of the P.M. Report, signed by ^{Smith. Gordon.} 4 doctors, ^{Murphy. Burt.} & with a line
& a half obliterated by order of Sir Hudson Lowe; (ii) the
P.M. Report amended but unsigned, & (iii) Dr Arnott's
^{Htl.} daily report during the last weeks of Napoleon's life to Sir
Hudson Lowe. The documents are all in a good state of
preservation & I or my brother, Major Short, could
bring them up to town soon after Easter for you to see, if
you think Mr Wellcome would be a likely purchaser,
or, again, if you were down in this neighbourhood I should be

very glad to show them to you here.

My Mother thought that the three documents should fetch between £300 & £400. I should be very glad to have your opinion as to their value collectively or individually.

If you think Mr Wellcome would consider the price prohibitive it would hardly be worth while bringing the papers up to town.

Yours truly,

J. des. Short. (Capt.)

Deadwood 11th May 1821.

Sir,

Having been in attendance upon Napoleon Bonaparte for some weeks before his decease , a condensed statement of his case during that period taken from my daily reports , may perhaps be satisfactory ,-

In the first instance , before I was admitted to see Napoleon Bonaparte , I was consulted upon his case , on the 25th of March last , by his own Medical Attendant , Dr Antomarchi , who in Italian denominates the disease "Febbre Gastrica Pituitosa " . He stated the leading symptoms of it to be Fever , pain in the Epigastric region , Nausea , vomiting , loss of appetite , constipated bowels , and great prostration of strength . From his statement I recommended the bowels to be kept very open by means of Medicine and a Blister to be applied to the region of the Stomach. However at the next conference I had with Antomarchi on the subject , he informed me that Napoleon Bonaparte had objected to the use of Medicine or remedies in any shape , and preferred leaving the disease to nature . On the first of April I was requested to see him with Dr Antomarchi . We did not prescribe for him that night , but visited him again next morning , I found him in a state of great debility , but there were no febrile symptoms present , the Pulse was 76 & regular , heat natural , and skin moist Tongue white , and thirst inconsiderable . Complained of a gnawing pain in his stomach , bowels very slow , seldom an evacuation without the aid of Cavements . At that time he had every symptom of Dyspepsia accompanied with more than ordinary dejection of

To Lieut^t General
Sir H. Lowe K.C.B.
&c &c &c .

spirits , Under all the circumstances of the case ,we recommended purgatives as occasion should require , and at the same time some tonic medicine ,with light nourishing diet . But until the 6th of April we could not prevail upon our patient to take any medicine , and then , what he took was so small a quantity ,that it had little effect upon him . On the 7th April,he was again prevailed upon to take some more opening medicine , which operated well ,had some copious evacuations from it , and in consequence , he experienced great relief . He took Medicine on the 8th also ,which relieved him , but after that we could not persuade him to persevere in the use of Medicine as circumstances required .

On the 10th of April the stomach became very irritable ,and the debility increased , yet the pulse kept good , was not more than 72 , and full . He on that day ,said to me that "the fever was now past ,and that he had returned to the old state in which he had been , for the last eight months , viz Great weakness and want of appetite , at the same time he put his hand upon his right side over the liver , looked at me ,and said "la foie " upon which I examined the region of the liver ,and not discovering any induration or fulness whatever , I told him that "I did not apprehend there was any disease of the liver ,that perhaps there might be a little want of action in it ."

On the 11th of April Nausea and vomiting became very distressing ,was very low and languid , and although the bowels were slow he would take no medicine to move them . To alleviate the vomiting he on this day took a small opiate .

12th & 13th the vomiting continued and his bowels were constipated , yet he would take no medicine . Procured small motions

by means of Enamata .

On the 16th ,17th , and 18th the Pulse became more frequent, and the strength sunk somewhat . Had cold clammy hight perspirations, became more desponding and the vomiting appeared to exhaust him very much , complained at different times during those three days of a sensation of heat in the liver ,and across the stomach . Although the bowels did not perform their functions , yet he refused to take any medicine of a purgative nature .

On the 19th , 20th & 21st , He appeared to recover strength a little ,the bowels were more regular ,was very tranquil ,and he took more nourishment .

22nd April . Passed a good night ,slept several hours ,said however he felt a sensation of heat in his stomach . Had some vomiting .

23rd April . Pulse near 78 and heat natural . Had a small alvine evacuation from an Enema . Vomited twice that day ,but fancied himself stronger .

24th April , Vomiting continued ,accompanied with great weakness and complained of a giddiness .

25th April . Passed a bad night , no sleep and frequent vomiting . I found him more exhausted that morning than I had done before . Pulse was 82 ,small & weak . Had a trifling alvine evacuation from an Enema . Had worse vomiting in the afternoon of this day . Having observed that when the bowels were free there was less nausea and vomiting , I urged him to take some aperient Medicine ,and he took it accordingly that evening . It emptied the bowels well , however it had not the usual effect in lessening the vomiting . That distressing symptom continued on the 26th ,

27th , and 28th . On the two latter days he vomited black grumous matter , resembling Coffee grounds mixed with small specks of blood .

Previous to this I had apprehended some organic affection of the stomach , but when I perceived the vomiting of the dark coloured fluid , I had the more reason to suppose that my fears were well grounded . All hopes of the disease terminating favourably now vanished . His strength sunk rapidly , the pulse increased in frequency . He became insensible at times to objects around him , evidently showing aberration of mind .

On the 29th there was an aggravation of all the symptoms especially the vomiting and delirium . With the view of alleviating the irritation of stomach a Blister was applied to the Epigastric region , but altho' it rose well it had no good effect .

On the 30th of April, all the symptoms increased in violence , in addition to which singultus came on , and betwixt 11 & 12 o'clock^k that night he was seized with a rigor attended with laborious respiration and great anxiety . Next day , 1st May , the debility was extreme , indeed , the pulse had increased in frequency , the heat had become lower than natural , the skin clammy , and he spoke very incoherently .

On the 2nd , 3rd , & 4th of May , all the symptoms became more aggravated , and he sank gradually . On the Evening of the 4th he was more composed than he had been for some days before . He went to sleep at 9 o'clock , and passed a tolerable night . However at $\frac{1}{2}$ after 5 o'clock in the morning of the 5th he was seized with vomiting of a fluid of a very dark colour , this was immediately followed by a total loss of muscular motion and the power of

deglutition , the under jaw dropped , the eyes became fixed , the pulse small and weak , varied from 102 to 110 in the minute, in short everything denoted that dissolution was fast approaching . In this state he lingered until forty nine minutes past 5 o'clock in the afternoon , when he expired .

You are already in possession of the dissection report which most satisfactorily points out the cause of death , the cancer in the stomach being so obvious as was also the ulcer which penetrated the coats of that viscus .

I may make a remark here which does not appear in the dissection report , that the strong adhesions of the morbid parts of the stomach to the concave surface of the left lobe of the liver , perhaps prolonged the Patient's life , being over the ulcer it consequently prevented the escape of the contents of the stomach into the cavity of the abdomen .

What is very remarkable in this case , the Patient did not become emaciated at least , to correspond with the disease .

The dissection report will show how very fat the body was pest mortem .

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most obedient

& humble servant

(signed)

Arch Arnott M.D.

COPY.

Deadwood, 11th May 1821.

Sir,

Having been in attendance upon Napoleon Bonaparte for some weeks before his decease, a condensed statement of his case during that period taken from my daily reports, may perhaps be satisfactory -

In the first instance, before I was admitted to see Napoleon Bonaparte I was consulted upon his case, on the 25th of March last, by his own Medical Attendant, Dr. Antomarchi, who in Italian denominates the disease "Febbre Gastrica Pituitosa". He stated the leading symptoms of it to be Fever, pain in the Epigastric region, Nausea vomiting, loss of appetite, constipated bowels, and great prostration of strength. From his statement I recommended the bowels to be kept very open by means of Medicina and a Blister to be applied to the region of the Stomach. However at the next conference I had with Antomarchi on the subject, he informed me that Napoleon Bonaparte had objected to the use of Medicine or remedies in any shape, and preferred leaving the disease to nature. On the first of April I was requested to see him with Dr. Antomarchi. We did not prescribe for him that night, but visited him again next morning, I found him in a state of great debility, but there were no febrile symptoms present, the Pulse was 76 & regular, heat natural, and skin moist, Tongue white, and thirst inconsiderable. Complained of a gnawing pain in his stomach, bowels very slow, seldom an evacuation without the aid of Cavements. At that time he had every symptom of Dyspepsia accompanied with more than ordinary

dejection of spirits. Under all the circumstances of the case, we recommended purgatives as occasion should require, and at the same time some tonic medicine, with light nourishing diet. But until the 6th of April we could not prevail upon our patient to take any medicine, and then, what he took was so small a quantity, that it had little effect upon him. On the 7th April, he was again prevailed upon to take some more opening medicine, which operated well, had some copious evacuations from it, and in consequence, he experienced great relief. He took Medicine on the 8th also, which relieved him, but after that we could not persuade him to persevere in the use of Medicine as circumstances required.

On the 10th of April the stomach became very irritable, and the debility increased, yet the pulse kept good, was not more than 72, and full. He on that day, said to me that "the fever was now past, and that he had returned to the old state in which he had been for the last eight months, viz Great weakness and want of appetite," at the same time he put his hand upon his right side over the liver, looked at me, and said "la foie" upon which I examined the region of the liver, and not discovering any induration or fulness whatever, I told him that "I did not apprehend there was any disease of the liver, that perhaps there might be a little want of action in it."

On the 11th of April Nausea and vomiting became very distressing, was very low and languid, and although the bowels were slow he would take no medicine to move them. To alleviate the

vomiting he on this day took a small opiate.

12th and 13th the vomiting continued and his bowels were constipated, yet he would take no medicine. Procured small motions by means of Enamata.

On the 16th, 17th, and 18th the Pulse became more frequent, and the strength sunk somewhat. Had cold clammy night perspirations, became more desponding and the vomiting appeared to exhaust him very much, complained at different times during those three days of a sensation of heat in the liver, and across the stomach. Although the bowels did not perform their functions, yet he refused to take any medicine of a purgative nature.

On the 19th, 20th and 21st, he appeared to recover strength a little, the bowels were more regular, was very tranquil, and he took more nourishment.

22nd April. Passed a good night, slept several hours, said however he felt a sensation of heat in his stomach. Had some vomiting.

23rd April. Pulse near 78 and heat natural. Had a small alvine evacuation from an Enema. Vomited twice that day, but fancied himself stronger.

24th April. Vomiting continued, accompanied with great weakness and complained of a giddiness.

25th April. Passed a bad night, no sleep and frequent vomiting. I found him more exhausted that morning than I had

done before. Pulse was 82, small & weak. Had a trifling alvine evacuation from an Enema. Had worse vomiting in the afternoon of this day. Having observed that when the bowels were free there was less nausea and vomiting, I urged him to take some aperient Medicine, and he took it accordingly that evening. It emptied the bowels well, however it had not the usual effect in lessening the vomiting. That distressing symptom continued on the 26th, 27th and 28th. On the two latter days he vomited black grumous matter, resembling Coffee grounds mixed with small specks of blood.

Previous to this I had apprehended some organic affection of the stomach, but when I perceived the vomiting of the dark coloured fluid, I had the more reason to suppose that my fears were well grounded. All hope of the disease terminating favourable now vanished. His strength sunk rapidly, the pulse increased in frequency. He became insensible at times to objects around him, evidently showing aberration of mind.

On the 29th there was an aggravation of all the symptoms especially the vomiting and delirium. With the view of alleviating the irritation of stomach a Blister was applied to the Epigastric region, but altho' it rose well it had no good effect.

On the 30th of April all the symptoms increased in violence, in addition to which singultus came on, and betwixt 11 & 12 o'clock

that night he was seized with a rigor attended with laborious respiration and great anxiety. Next day, 1st May, the debility was extreme, indeed, the pulse had increased in frequency, the heat had become lower than natural, the skin clammy, and he spoke very incoherently.

On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of May all the symptoms became more aggravated, and he sank gradually. On the Evening of the 4th he was more composed than he had been for some days before. He went to sleep at 9 o'clock, and passed a tolerable night. However at $\frac{1}{2}$ after 5 o'clock in the morning of the 5th he was seized with vomiting of a fluid of a very dark colour, this was immediately followed by a total loss of muscular motion and the power of deglutition, the under jaw dropped, the eyes became fixed, the pulse small and weak, varied from 102 to 110 in the minute, in short everything denoted that dissolution was fast approaching. In this state he lingered until forty nine minutes past 5 o'clock in the afternoon when he expired.

You are already in possession of the dissection report which most satisfactorily points out the cause of death, the cancer in the stomach being so obvious as was also the ulcer which penetrated the coats of that viscus.

I may make a remark here which does not appear in the dissection report, that the strong adhesions of the morbid parts of the stomach to the concave surface of the left lobe of the liver,

perhaps prolonged the Patient's life, being over the ulcer it consequently prevented the escape of the contents of the stomach into the cavity of the abdomen.

What is very remarkable in this case, the Patient did not become emaciated at least, to correspond with the disease.

The dissection report will show how very fat the body was post mortem.

I have the honour to be

Sir

your most obedient

& humble servant

(signed) Arch Arnott M.D.

To Lieut^t General

Sir H. Lowe K.C.B. &c. &c. &c.

Feb. 13
1904

Wellbank,
Taplow.

Dear Mr Thompson:

On the next page I am
describing 3 documents of ex-
traordinary medico-historical
interest, being the reports of the
chief English army doctor at
St. Helena on Napoleon's autopsy.

Should you care to make
an offer for them for your
collection? They belong

to the cousin of a great
friend of mine - a direct
descendant of Dr. Brewster. He
sends me this typed copy
of N° 3, which I send for
your inspection.

He is asking £300, which
does strike me as an ex-
cessive price. Do you
care to offer? ³

Y^{rs} very truly
W. S. Buckler

1. Contemporary copy of "Report
of appearances on dissection of
body of Napoleon Bonaparte."
Dated May 6. 1821.
2. Post-mortem report (marked
"original"), with signatures of 4
out of ^{the} 5 doctors who signed the
actual report sent to England
3. Long letter, ^(original) dated May 11.
1821, from Dr. A. Arnott to
Sir Hudson Lowe, with full
details of illness. (copy herewith)