THE PAPERS OF DR THOMAS COKE: A CATALOGUE

GARETH LLOYD
JOHN RYLANDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Index (by Dr John A. Vickers)
Introduction
The Revd Thomas Coke (1747-1814) was in some respects the most important of John Wesley's recruits to Methodism from the ranks of the Anglican clergy. He was certainly the most dedicated and energetic of Wesley's clerical supporters. Unlike John Fletcher, he was prepared to abandon the parochial ministry and to associate himself fully with the Methodist itinerancy. Surviving Wesley by over two decades, he became a key figure in the crucial period of transition after 1791.

The son of a relatively affluent apothecary who served as both Common Councilman and Bailiff (i.e. mayor) of his native Brecon, Coke was educated at the local grammar school and went to Jesus College, Oxford as a gentleman commoner. This gave him influential acquaintances, if not close friendships, which he was not slow to exploit in later years in the interests of Methodism. He took his degree in 1768 and later obtained a Doctorate in Civil Law. Meanwhile he had been ordained deacon in 1770 and priest in 1772 and became curate in the rural Somerset parish of South Petherton.

During his six years as a curate Coke came under Methodist influences, as a result of which in August 1776 he rode over to Kingston St Mary, near Taunton, to meet John Wesley. Somewhat to his surprise, Wesley encouraged him to return to his parochial duties; but less than a year later local opposition to his Methodistical enthusiasm came to a head and he was driven out of the parish. From then on he attached himself to the Methodists and became increasingly indispensable to Wesley in his closing years.

The range of Coke's involvement in the Methodist movement both before and after Wesley's death in 1791 is reflected in his correspondence, a large proportion of which, whether in the original manuscripts or in copies, is found in the Connexional Archives at the John Rylands University Library. (The other main collection, in the archives of the Methodist Church Overseas Division in London, is also represented here in the form of copies.)

Wesley made extensive use of Coke as an administrator and peacemaker in a Connexion troubled by dissention over the control of chapels (e.g. at Birstall and Dewsbury in Yorkshire), by pressure for the separation of Methodism from the Church of England, and, as Wesley's life drew to an end, by manoeuvres to gain control over the future Connexion. (Coke's own churchmanship, as noted below, remained equivocal.)

In 1784, Coke's sphere of activity was dramatically enlarged when Wesley 'ordained' him as Superintendent and sent him out to establish a separate Methodist Church in the newly independent American States. He, in turn, ordained Francis Asbury as deacon, presbyter and

1 E.g. 21/6. (Footnote references in this Introduction are to items in the Catalogue.)
'Superintendent' (a title quickly replaced, to Wesley's dismay, by its more scriptural equivalent, 'Bishop'), and the Methodist Episcopal Church came into existence. In the course of exercising his 'episcopal' authority (within limits firmly laid down by Asbury) during the next two decades, Coke paid eight further visits to America, on four of which he also toured the Caribbean islands where missions were being established. Although he remained an outsider, resented and suspected in some American eyes as an embodiment of Wesley's desire to keep control of transatlantic developments, Coke had a rôle to play in the formative years of American Methodism, and after 1791 was the only effective link between the two Connexions.

1784 also saw Coke's first abortive attempt to launch foreign missions, which foundered because he failed to get Wesley's approval in advance. Two years later, this time with Wesley's blessing and support, he issued a fresh appeal in *An address to the pious and benevolent* and Methodist overseas missions had their tentative beginnings. For the next twenty years Coke, almost single-handed, promoted and organized the missions, and supported them both by his fund-raising and his own personal giving. The support of a Conference beset by financial and other problems after 1791 was understandably hesitant and one or two attempts to set up a missionary committee had little practical effect. Finally, in 1804, a committee of London preachers was appointed to bring the missions and their finances under the effective control of the Conference; and some of the most interesting correspondence relates to the efforts of the new committee to find a *modus vivendi* with the ebullient 'Superintendent of the Missions'.

Coke's bifocal churchmanship vacillated between an evangelical impatience with a residual loyalty to the Church of England. Although his social and educational background set him apart from the rank and file of the itinerants, he became their champion against the hostility of Charles Wesley, who was increasingly distressed by Methodism's drift away from the Church. Yet it was Coke who, despite his key rôle in the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attempted a reconciliation with the American Episcopalians in 1791. When this overture became more widely known, it earned him little except suspicion and censure. Towards the end of his life, zeal for world mission led him to make what in the eyes of more sober judgement seemed a naive and foolish (if not blatantly ambitious) indiscretion, when he offered himself as a candidate for the proposed Indian bishopric.

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2 For hints of the unresolved tensions, see 14/1, 15/11, 16/9.
3 5/16
4 See the extensive series of letters to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice, beginning in the autumn of 1804 (12/23 etc.).
5 7/22, 16/4
6 21/6
This indiscretion was, unfortunately, characteristic of the impetuous enthusiasm which he never outgrew and which caused him frequently to leap before he looked. (Wesley likened himself and Coke to a louse and a flea: 'I creep like a louse, and the ground I get I keep; but the Doctor leaps like a flea, and is sometimes obliged to leap back again.') But the charge most commonly levelled against him, that of self-seeking ambition, hardly squares with the evidence of his unflagging service and undoubted missionary zeal, and probably stemmed from resentment of his prominence and his influence on Wesley as much as from any personal defects.

Although he never attained the position of Wesley's undisputed successor in the British Connexion to which (at least in the eyes of his detractors) he may have aspired, Coke was twice elected President of the Conference, in 1797 and 1805.

In the midst of an unusually busy and peripatetic life, Coke somehow found time for a fair amount of literary work, some of it directly related to his missionary activities, but also including more general works, painstaking rather than of a high literary or theological quality. Among his major publications, there are references in the correspondence to the Life of John Wesley which he compiled in association with Henry Moore (1792), to his six-volume Commentary on the Holy Bible (1801–07), to his three-volume History of the West Indies (1808–11) and to his revision of Samuel Wesley's poem on The life of Christ (1809). Neither as a biblical commentator nor as a preacher did he rival his younger contemporary Adam Clarke, and his theology did no more than reflect the orthodoxy of contemporary evangelicalism.  

His last venture, in fulfilment of a long-cherished vision, was to establish a mission in India and Ceylon, with a characteristic dedication of his own efforts and resources. At the age of sixty-six years he sailed from Portsmouth with six young companions, but died at sea on 2 May 1814 and was buried in the Indian Ocean.

7 Including the outburst of millenarianism, the response of the pious to the Napoleonic threat at the turn of the century (16/7).
The Papers of Dr Thomas Coke (PLP/28)

Unless otherwise stated all the letters contained within this collection were written by Dr Thomas Coke. In the case of copy letters, the location of the original, if known, is given in brackets at the end of the entry.

List of Abbreviations
LMS London Missionary Society
MCOD Methodist Church Overseas Division
MMS Methodist Missionary Society
MNC Methodist New Connexion
PRO Public Record Office
SMU Southern Methodist University
WHS Wesley Historical Society
WM Wesleyan Methodist

PLP/28/1/-  Letters etc, 1797 and 1805

PLP/28/1/1–8 Engravings of Dr Thomas Coke.
              n.d.

PLP/28/1/9  Engraving of the ‘Fathers of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, held at Leeds, 1813’ (a) Revd Richard Watson (b) Revd [George] Morley (c) Dr Thomas Coke (d) Revd J. Wood (e) Dr Jabez Bunting.
              n.d. [1813]

PLP/28/1/10–23 Engravings of Coke.
                n.d.

PLP/28/1/24  Engraving of the house in which Coke preached his first sermon in Jamaica in 1789.
              n.d.

PLP/28/1/25  Biographical article re Coke.
              n.d.

PLP/28/1/26(a) Copy inscription on the tablet erected in memory of Coke in the Methodist chapel at Colombo in Ceylon.
               Aug. 1816

               n.d.
PLP/28/1/26(c) Circular letter sent to the preachers in America by Coke from City Road Chapel, London, re his recent marriage and his ambition to move permanently to America to work alongside Francis Asbury. Ezekiel Cooper, John Wilson and Richard Whatcoat are also mentioned. 1 June 1805

PLP/28/1/26(d) Coke's commentary on Genesis 3 – inscribed to Miss Booth. n.d.

PLP/28/1/27 Notebook containing a list of the books in Dr Thomas Coke's library, and subsequently deposited at City Road, London. n.d.

PLP/28/1/28-29 Sermons preached by Coke on Phil. 4. n.d.


PLP/28/2/- Letters etc, 1779–1814

PLP/28/2/1 From Coke and John Pawson to Joseph Benson at Leeds Chapel, Yorkshire, re decisions taken by the Conference, namely the drawing up of a pledge swearing loyalty to the King, to be signed by chapel officials, and that Conferences should devote their debates entirely to spiritual matters. Reference is made to the Corresponding Societies, and to the Jacobin movement. n.d. [c. 1800]

PLP/28/2/2 Copy extracts from twenty-nine letters to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, the originals of which are 'now at Wesley's House, London'. The extracts deal with various personal, legal and financial matters, and also cover visits made by Coke to Ireland, America and various parts of Britain. 7 July 1779–13 Mar. 1802 Related materials: PLP/28/3/3.
Copy letter to John Burdsall [missionary to Bermuda], expressing his personal regards. He refers to Burdsall's relationship with his father, Richard Burdsall, and draws comparisons with his feelings for his own father. Coke also mentions 'Letters of Orders', in the keeping of Samuel Bradburn.

n.d. [c. 1800]

To an unnamed correspondent re the success of the mission among the French prisoners on the prison ships 'Glory' and 'Trusty', moored in the Medway. Reference is also made to missionary activities in France itself.

n.d. [c. 1812]

From the Transport Office in Plymouth, Devon, to Truro, Cornwall, refusing access for Mr Olivier to preach to French prisoners of war held at Plymouth, without permission from the Secretary of State or the Admiralty.

29 Feb. 1812

From the Transport Office in Plymouth, Devon, to Plymouth, granting permission for Mr Olivier to preach to the French prisoners in the town.

17 Mar. 1812

MS biographical notes on Coke's life, including a transcript of the letter, notifying the Connexion in England of his death, and Benjamin Clough's detailed account of his last voyage.

n.d. [c. 1814]

From the publishing firm of Nuttall, Fisher and Dixon re the sales figures of the 'Cottager's Bible'.

4 Mar. 1812

Cutting from the bottom of a letter bearing the signature of Ann Coke.

n.d.

Card bearing Coke's biographical details.

n.d.
PLP/28/2/13–17 Copy of Coke’s last journal, covering the preparations for his journey to Ceylon, and the voyage itself. These entries were extracted by the Revd William Harvard, missionary and companion of Dr Coke, and were sent to the Revd Robert Smith of Spitalfields, London. 1813–14

PLP/28/2/18 Financial papers ordering the disposal of annuities for the benefit of several named Methodist funds – ordered by Coke, before his departure for Ceylon. n.d. [1813]

PLP/28/2/19 Printed poem entitled ‘Elegy’, written in Coke’s honour. n.d. [1814]

PLP/28/2/20 Manuscript notes re Coke’s two marriages. n.d.

PLP/28/2/21 Printed sermon occasioned by the death of Coke, and delivered by Thomas Roberts in the New King Street Chapel, Bath, Somerset. 13 Nov. 1814

PLP/28/3/– Letters, 1775–79

PLP/28/3/1 Copy letter from South Petherton, near Crewkerne in Somerset, to the Revd [John] Fletcher, at Madeley, Shropshire, expressing his admiration for Fletcher’s writings, and especially Fletcher’s opposition to Antinomianism. 28 Aug. 1775
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/3/2 From Brecon, Brecknockshire, to [Walter] Churchy, urging him to remain ‘alive in God’. He also asks him to subscribe to the Arminian Magazine, and refers to the rule of Conference, that only travelling preachers should have copies of the minutes. 25 Sept. 1777

PLP/28/3/3 Copy letter from the Foundery, London, to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknock-
shire, re £10 rent owed to him by Mr North, and the interest owed by Mr Maybery.
23 Feb. 1779
Original at Drew University.
Related materials: PLP/28/2/2.

PLP/28/3/4 Copy of PLP/28/3/3.

PLP/28/3/5 Copy letter from the Foundery, London, to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the bill for repairing Mr North's roof.
10 Mar. 1779
Original at Wesley's Chapel, London.

PLP/28/3/6 From South Petherton, near Crewkerne in Somerset, to Mr Gidley in Exeter, Devon, re a promise made by Mr Jones to lend £30, of which £20 would go to Mr Roberts, and £10 to Coke. A bond for the whole amount would be entered into by Coke, and [John] Wesley together. Mr Gidley is also urged to hold an immediate prayer meeting.
17 June 1779

PLP/28/3/7 Copy of PLP/28/6.

PLP/28/3/8 From London to Joseph Benson at the Manchester Preaching House, continuing an unspecified religious dispute [Coke's accusation that Benson had Arian leanings], which he intends to raise at the next Conference. He also asks for Benson's help in paying eight guineas to [John] Atlay, and that his regards and the gift of his horse should be presented to Mr Snowden. Enclosed is a copy of Samuel Bradburn's letter, written at Cork, Ireland on 17 Oct 1779, to Mr Benson. This contains Bradburn's defence against the charge of Arianism, made against him by several preachers.
10 Nov. 1779
Related materials: PLP/28/5/1-4.

PLP/28/3/9 From Stroud, Gloucestershire, to Mr Gidley in Exeter, Devon, re raising funds for circuits in Exeter and Bristol.
24 Nov. 1778
Copy letter from Bristol to John Wesley, re Coke's disagreement on various religious and personal issues with Charles Wesley, including Wesley's dislike of Band Meetings, and his attachment to the Church of England. Reference is also made to raising money for the chapel in Bath, Somerset.

15 Dec. 1779
Publication record: Arminian Magazine (1790), 50ff.

Copy letter from Hoxton, London, to [the directors of the LMS], reporting on the state of the missions in the West Indies. The report includes detailed statistics on the numbers of converts on each of the English islands, and on the recent work and movements of the missionaries Alexander, McDonnel, Fish and McVean. Mention is also made of the work of Stephen Cooke, merchant of Kingston, Jamaica. Coke asks that plans for expanding the mission should be postponed until the next Conference, for fear of sending 'Calvinist' inclined ministers.

26 Feb. 1798
Original in the archives of the LMS.

Copy of PLP/28/4/1.

Copy letter from London to Ezekiel Cooper, re Coke's return from America, and the schism that led to the formation of the Methodist New Connexion. He expresses the hope that his work will soon be completed, and that he will be able to return across the Atlantic. Reference is made to the missions in the West Indies, and to Coke's intention to set them on a more permanent footing.

21 Apr. 1798
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

To Miss Faulkner at Hoxton, London, re the poor health of Mrs Pearson.

24 Apr. 1798

Copy letter from City Road, London, to Thomas
Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, reminding him to pay Coke's quota of the Brecon Corporation subscription for the defence of the realm, and also to send the remainder of the interest due to him from his property.
5 May 1798
Original at Wesley's Chapel, London.

PLP/28/4/6
From Bristol to Mary Fletcher in Madeley, Shropshire, accepting her offer of the remaining copies of the late Revd [John] Fletcher's poem 'La Grace & La Nature', the sales of which are to be used to finance missionary work in the West Indies. He asks that the copies be sent to Mr Bruce, bookseller of City Road, London.
Mention is also made of Coke's attendance at the Irish Conference, and his poor health during his return journey through Wales.
31 July 1798

PLP/28/4/7
Copy of PLP/28/4/6.

PLP/28/4/8
Copy letter from Manchester to the Revd [Thomas] Haweis of Northampton Chapel, London, re his subscription to aid missionary work on the West Indian Islands of Nevis and St Christopher, under the supervision of Mr Owens. Reference is also made to the flourishing state of the other West Indian Missions.
26 Oct. 1798
Original at SMU.
Revd Dr Thomas Haweis was chaplain and executor to the Countess of Huntingdon.

PLP/28/4/9

PLP/28/4/10
Copy letter from City Road, London, to Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for War, requesting his help in fighting the law passed by the Estates of Jersey, in the Channel Islands, punishing with banishment those who refuse to take part in compulsory military training on Sundays.
Dr Coke affirms the Connexion's loyalty to the Crown, and recalls the recent expulsion of '5000 democrats from our Society' [i.e. the MNC]. He recounts in detail the very active rôle played by the Methodists in helping to put down the Irish
rebellion, and in the defence of the West Indies against French attack.
Reference is also made to the composition of the congregation on Jersey and its numbers.
8 Nov. 1798
Original at SMU.

PLP/28/4/11 From Mr Le Breton in Jersey, to City Road, London, re the speech which he had made in defence of the Methodists in their refusal to attend militia training on Sundays.
12 Nov. 1798

PLP/28/4/12 From City Road, London, to Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for War, enclosing a letter sent to Coke, from Colonel Masservy, second in command of the defences of Jersey. Colonel Masservy describes the organization of the island’s militia, and pays tribute to the principles of the Methodists, and their willingness to carry out training during the week, instead of on Sundays.
26 Nov. 1798


PLP/28/4/14 From City Road in London, to Henry Moore and Mr Palmer, re the decision of the Privy Council, to advise the King to reject the Jersey Militia Bill. Coke intends to visit the island, taking Mr Palmer with him as a preacher acceptable to both the congregations and the government
8 Dec. 1798

PLP/28/4/15 To [William] Myles at the Methodist chapel in Rochdale, Lancashire, re the decision by the Privy Council to reject the Jersey Militia Bill, and his intention to visit the island with Mr Kershaw. He also expresses his intention to print a specimen copy of *The Comment*, and asks if there are any subscribers.
8 Dec. 1798


PLP/28/4/17 To Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for War, thanking him for his assistance in the Jersey Militia
affair, and also informing him of his proposed visit to Jersey, to try to reconcile the opposing parties.
12 Dec. 1798

PLP/28/4/18 Copy letter from City Road, London, to an unnamed American correspondent, re his forthcoming visit to America, and his hope that full provision for a married ministry in that country will soon be made. He also discusses the membership lost in England to the Methodist New Connexion, and the problems affecting the Irish Connexion due to the rebellion. Reference is made to the building of new chapels, to replace those lost by the division of the church, and the adverse affect that this has had on the funding of missions in the West Indies. He also gives a detailed account of the persecution suffered by the Methodists on Jersey, culminating in the intervention of the Privy Council.
18 Dec. 1798
Original in the possession of the Baltimore Methodist Historical Society.


PLP/28/4/20 Copy letter from the London preachers to circuit officials, asking for support for mission funds, depleted due to Coke’s enforced attention to the Jersey Militia affair.
23 Dec. 1798

PLP/28/4/21 From City Road, London, to Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for War, acknowledging his appointment to see Mr Wickham.
26 Dec. 1798

PLP/28/4/22 To the missionaries in the West Indies ordering the stations for the coming year, and notifying them of the decisions of the Conference concerning the responsibilities of individual missionaries, and the need to save money due to the indebtedness of the Foreign Missions Fund. He expresses his intention to visit the islands, and hold a Conference as soon as the war with France is ended. He also urges them to show more zeal in opening missions on the islands of Antigua and Montserrat.
1798
PLP/28/5/1  To Joseph Benson at the Preaching House, Manchester, re their dispute over unspecified religious and personal matters [Benson's alleged Arian tendencies]. Reference is made to Benson's regret that Coke was ever admitted to the Society, and Benson's rudeness and lack of humility in believing that his 'pernicious error', is shared by most of the preachers.

1 June 1780

Attached to this letter is a card in Coke's handwriting, bearing the address of Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, and on the reverse an engraving of Joseph Benson at the age of thirty-two.


PLP/28/5/2–3  Copies of PLP/28/5/1.

PLP/28/5/4  Copy letter to Mr Harrison re the validity of Samuel Bradburn's defence against the charge of Arianism, and Coke's belief that Joseph Benson is guilty of that heresy. He quotes extensively from letters written by the two men.

1780


PLP/28/5/5  Copy letter to Mr Gidley, Supervisor of Excise in Lutterworth, Leicestershire, re the assignment of premises in Exeter for a new preaching house.

He asks Gidley to subscribe to a Society in London for the distribution of 'small awakening tracts' among the poor, and also mentions that [Ebenezer] Blackwell the banker, a friend of the Commissioner for Excise, has died and is therefore unable to help Gidley obtain a better post.

Reference is made to Mr Wesley's dropping of Mr Sanderson, who promptly left the Society, taking with him about sixty people in Exeter, Devon.

4 June 1782


PLP/28/5/6  Copy of PLP/28/5/5.

PLP/28/5/7  To Mr Dodsley, bookseller of Pall Mall in London, re [John] Wesley's intention to find booksellers to sell his publications, beginning with
an abridgement of a *History of the Earl of Morland*, and two political tracts on the War in America.

24 Feb. 1781

PLP/28/5/8 From Sheffield, Yorkshire, to Mrs Gidley in Exeter, Devon, re the assignment of premises in Exeter, and enclosing a letter to Mr Gidley, asking him to execute the assignment, and then send it to London.

10 Oct. 1782


PLP/28/5/10 To Mr Tooth, thanking him for his help with regard to his dead mother's remains, and promising to pay the expenses incurred.

30 May 1783

PLP/28/5/11 Copy letter from Bristol to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, asking him to recover the money due to his mother's estate from Mr Prosser and Mrs Jervais.

He states that as [John] Wesley intends to visit Wales that year, he [Coke] will not visit the principality until the following year.

1 Aug. 1783

Original at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

PLP/28/5/12 From London to Mr Gidley in Bideford, Devon, asking him to obtain from a friend in Exeter, Devon, medicine to treat the fistula, and send it to the Revd James Brown in Portishead, Somerset.

In a footnote he adds that Mr Wesley 'has recovered'.

26 Aug. 1783

PLP/28/5/13 Copy of PLP/28/5/12.

PLP/28/5/14 Copy letter from Frome, Somerset, to Arthur Keene in Dublin, putting forward Richard Cundy, the former missionary in Jamaica, for the post of schoolmaster at the Charity School in the city.

He suggests a wage of £50 per annum, and says that he [Coke] hopes to visit Dublin in the spring.

3 Dec. 1783

Mariott MSS.

PLP/28/5/16 Copy letter from near Plymouth, Devon, to the Revd [John] Fletcher at Madeley, Shropshire, enclosing a plan for the establishing of foreign missions. He also refers to the success of his mission in West Cornwall. 6 Jan. 1784 Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/5/16(a) Copy letter from near Dublin to John Wesley, at Edinburgh describing in detail the state of the Society in Dublin, and making suggestions re sending further named preachers from England. He also describes the exposure of a Dublin woman as an imposter, supposedly possessed by demons, and some anti-Catholic sentiments are expressed. Reference is made to the advantages to be gained by Coke visiting America in order to gather information on the progress of the Society. 17 Apr. 1784 Original formerly at the Epworth Press, London.

PLP/28/5/17 Copy letter from Park-Gate, Yorkshire, to Arthur Keene, in Dublin, re the removal of Mr Rogers to Dublin. He also mentions the offer of Mr Conolly Coane of Tuam, Co. Galway to sponsor a scholar at the Dublin Charity School, and asks if the White Friars can provide accommodation. 24 July 1784 Marriott MSS.

PLP/28/5/18 Copy of PLP/28/5/17.


PLP/28/5/20 Copy letter from London, to Thomas Williams,
attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, asking him to raise £150, and send it to the New Room in Bristol.
18 Aug. 1784
Original in the Professor John Evans Collection, Brecon Museum.

PLP/28/5/21 Copy letter from Bristol to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re £150 raised by Williams, and expressing confidence that Coke’s business affairs will be well looked after during his absence in the United States.
7 Sept. 1784
Original in the archives of the MMS.


PLP/28/5/23 Copy letter from Bristol to Arthur Keene in Dublin, asking him, in Coke’s absence, to take legal advice in an unspecified matter.
17 Sept. 1784
Marriott MSS.

PLP/28/5/24 Copy of PLP/28/5/23.

PLP/28/6/- Letters, 1785–89

5 Oct. 1785
Original at John Wesley’s Chapel, City Road, London.

PLP/28/6/2 Copy of PLP/28/6/1.

PLP/28/6/3 Copy letter from London to Robert Carr Brackenbury of St Helier, Jersey, informing him of Coke’s expected arrival on the island on Saturday next.
17 Jan. 1786

PLP/28/6/4 Copy of PLP/28/6/3.
Copy letter from Southampton to Charles Grant, Director of the East India Company, re the possibility of sending a mission to Bengal. Coke states that this is not possible because of commitments in the United States, and 'pressing invitations' to send missionaries to the West Indies and Nova Scotia. He emphasizes the good working relationship that the Methodists enjoy with the civil authorities, and compares their missionary activities with those of the Danish and Moravian Churches.

25 Jan. 1786
Publication record: Arminian Magazine (1792), 331.

Copy letter from London to John Stretton(?), informing him that Coke hopes to be in Nova Scotia in September [1786], and that he will receive a full report then. He asks Stretton to tell John McGeary, to meet Coke in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and that he will not have time to visit Newfoundland.

26 Feb. 1786

Copy of PLP/28/6/6.

Copy letter from Antrim, Ireland, to Arthur Keene in Dublin, thanking him for his kindness. Coke states that his command of French has improved during his stay in Cork, where he received instruction from Sister Ward, and that his health is good.

6 June 1786
Marriott MSS.

Copy of PLP/28/8.

From Ryde on the Isle of Wight, to [Thomas] Hanby in Scotland, expressing the hope that John Pawson had given him all that he had asked for. Coke describes the poor weather experienced on his voyage and a near collision with a large coal ship.

6 Oct. 1786

Copy letter from Southampton, Hampshire, to Francis Asbury in America, carried by Levi
Heath and his family. Coke describes in detail the financial arrangements for Heath's passage to America to start his ministry. He also refers to the large number of new converts in England and Ireland, the extensive travels made by himself and John Wesley in recent months, and the swift proceedings of the Manchester Conference. He asks Asbury to send a letter to George Shadford of Cornwall who was shortly to enter the ministry in America. Coke also mentions John Wesley's intention to send books at two-thirds of the English retail price, and Coke emphasizes that he (Coke) can be trusted to act in Asbury's best interests in this matter. Coke states his intention to be at Charleston in South Carolina in March [1788], and asks that Conferences are arranged accordingly, before his return to England from New York in June [1788].

10 Aug. 1787
Original at Drew University.

Copy letter from London to Thomas Hanby, apologizing for not replying sooner, and giving his reasons for not doing so, as follows: Coke's poor health; his fund-raising among the Methodists and the Calvinists for the West Indian Mission; and his unsuccessful attempt to change John Wesley's mind about an unspecified matter. Coke hopes to see Hanby in Sheffield, Yorkshire, in February [1788].

23 Jan. 1788
Original at Emory University.

Copy of PLP/28/6/14.

Copy letter from Edinburgh to the 'ministers, preachers, and members of the Methodist Church in Scotland' recommending the building of a chapel in Dalkeith.

19 Mar. 1788
Original formerly at Headingley College, Leeds, and now at Wesley College in Bristol, and also printed in WHS Proc., xxviii (1951-52), 15-16.

Copy of PLP/28/6/14.
PLP/28/6/16   Copy letter from Dublin to Mr Phillips, stationer of George Yard, Lombard Street, London, enclosing a copy of a subscription for work among the 'Caribbs' of the West Indies, together with extracts from two letters sent to Coke from Mr Joyce, describing the voyage to St Vincent, and the welcome accorded to him and his wife by Mr Stewart.
Joyce states his intention to visit the Caribs with Mr Baxter, and reference is made to the erection of a school, and the teaching of negro children in Kingston, Jamaica.
26 Apr. 1788
Original copy in the possession of Ernest Case.

PLP/28/6/17   Copy letter from Dublin to Joseph Sutcliffe, recommending that he join the mission to Nova Scotia, after ordination by John Wesley at the next Conference. Arrangements can be made to depart from Falmouth, Cornwall, with Mr Button.
30 Apr. 1788
Original formerly in the possession of Revd R. Lee Cole, and now at Victoria University in Toronto.

PLP/28/6/18   Copy of PLP/28/6/17.

PLP/28/6/19   Copy letter to Arthur Keene, regretting the apparent cooling in their friendship, and enclosing Mr Boyle's letter re Coleraine House.
14 July 1788

PLP/28/6/20   Copy of PLP/28/6/19.

PLP/28/6/21   Copy letter from London to the trustees of the Dewsbury Preaching House, Yorkshire, describing in detail the arrangements proposed by Conference for the administration of the chapel, and the appointment of preachers. Coke states that if the trustees accept these proposals, then John Shaw and William Percival will be appointed as preachers for the coming year; if not, then 'we must withdraw ourselves from you'.
6 Aug. 1788
Original at Drew University.
Printed letter addressed to the subscribers to the West Indian Mission. Extracts from letters sent by William Hammet are enclosed. In the extracts the work of the Mission throughout the islands is described in detail, including the developing relationship with the planters and their slaves, exact membership figures for the Society, and the financial situation with regard to the building of the chapel on St Christopher. Reference is also made to the mission among the Caribs, including the opening of a school, and the good work performed by the interpreter Peter Gordon.
8 Aug. 1788
In an handwritten note on the reverse of this document Coke thanks Mr [Thomas] Wride at the Whitehaven Preaching House for his financial support.

Copy letter from London to Richard Rodda at Burslem, Staffordshire, thanking him for the money raised by his circuit to help the Mission in the West Indies. Coke also asks his forgiveness for an unspecified misunderstanding.
7 Oct. 1788

Copy of PLP/28/6/23.

Copy letter from on board ‘The Union’, off Ireland, to an unnamed American correspondent, expressing satisfaction at the report that he will be able to give to John Wesley re the state of the American Society.
6 July 1789
Original in the possession of the Baltimore Methodist Historical Society.

Copy letter from ‘The Union’, off Ireland, to Ezekiel Cooper, re the flourishing state of the American Society.
7 July 1789

Copy letter from Bristol to Thomas Morrell in America, comparing the number of new converts in the United States, especially Virginia and Maryland, with those in England and Ireland.
He asks Morrell to write to him before Coke leaves for the West Indies in September or October [1790]. Morrell should also write to John Wesley, who is complaining that he hears very seldom from 'any of his sons in the United States'.

Reference also is made to the flourishing state of the West Indian Mission.

30 Oct. 1789
Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/6/28 Copy of PLP/28/6/27.

PLP/28/6/29 Copy letter from Sarum, Wiltshire, to Mr Shum in Bath, Somerset, re the non-arrival of a parcel at Froome [Frome, Somerset].
15 Dec. 1789
Original at the New Room, Bristol.

PLP/28/7/- Letters, 1790–91

PLP/28/7/1 Copy letter to Joseph Sutcliffe, asking him to undertake a mission to the English settlement in Honduras, which would be sponsored by a 'company of gentlemen in London'. If the mission proves to be unsuccessful, then he would be sent on to Jamaica.
16 Jan. 1790
Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

PLP/28/7/2 Copy of PLP/28/7/1.

PLP/28/7/3 Copy letter to John Wesley, asking permission to dedicate Coke's latest publication to him.
25 Jan. 1790
Publication record: Wesleyan Methodist Magazine (1844), 222f.

PLP/28/7/4 Copy letter from Downpatrick, Ireland, to Thomas Morrell of New York, encouraging him in his work and enclosing a quotation from 'A hymn on the seasons', by James Thompson.
23 June 1790
Publication record: Christian Advocate and Journal (3 April 1851), 53, and in World Parish (October 1961), 29f.
PLP/28/7/5  Copy letter from London to William Wilberforce, enclosing an account of the state of the West Indian Mission, and denying the charge that Coke wishes to separate the Methodists from the Church of England.
24 Aug. 1790

PLP/28/7/6  Copy of PLP/28/7/5.

PLP/28/7/7  Copy letter from London to Thomas Williams, asking him to raise £100 from Coke's property before his departure for the West Indies and America in October [1790].
30 Aug. 1790
Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

PLP/28/7/8  Copy of PLP/28/7/7.

PLP/28/7/9  Copy letter from Falmouth, Cornwall, to William Holmes at Salisbury Preaching House, Wiltshire, asking him to write to Mr Tyler, a tailor of City Road, London, if he wants prayer books. Coke states that he is expecting to sail at any time.
12 Oct. 1790

PLP/28/7/10 Copy of PLP/28/7/9.

PLP/28/7/11 Copy letter from on board ship near Barbados, to Thomas Ridgeway at the Preaching House in Cavan, Ulster, Ireland, looking forward to the day when 'Ireland will be aflame with the glory of God'. Ridgeway is warned to beware of those who had been expelled from the Society. Some anti-Catholic sentiments are expressed.
20 Nov. 1790
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/7/12 Unfinished copy letter to the Methodists of Great Britain and Ireland, re the divisions that had arisen as a result of the constitution and government of the Society, as defined by John Wesley in a deed of 1784. Coke describes the
background to the document's creation, and his intention of distributing copies of it as part of a 'plan of reconciliation'.

n.d. [c. 1791]

**PLP/28/7/13**
Copy letter from Richmond, Virginia, to Bishop William White of the Episcopalian Church, describing in detail the hopes of both himself and John Wesley, that the Church of England and the Methodists might be reconciled. Separation between the two had only occurred in America because of lack of ministers to administer the sacrament, and this division had gone further than John Wesley had intended. Coke states that reunion would be advantageous to the Anglicans in America, as there were 60,000 Methodists and 250 travelling preachers. Opposition could, however, be expected from many preachers, including Francis Asbury. Coke asks for an interview in order to discuss the matter further, and begs him in the meantime to keep the approach secret, although there had already been some talk of reunion.

24 Apr. 1791
Facsimile in the Bodleian Library.

**PLP/28/7/14**
Copy letter from Wilmington, Delaware, to James O'Kelly, re Coke's return to England following the death of John Wesley, and hoping that in his absence no steps will be taken to prevent a General Conference of the American Society.

4 May 1791

**PLP/28/7/15**
Copy of PLP/28/7/14.

**PLP/28/7/16**
Copy letter from Philadelphia to Thomas Morrell in New York, informing him that Coke had been prevented by poor health (sciatica) from catching a ship to England from New York, and he will now therefore sail for home on the 'William Penn'. His belongings should be sent on to him. Coke expresses the hope that he will be able to
attend the General Conference in Baltimore in December 1792.
Enclosed is an extract from a British preacher's letter re the death of John Wesley.
6 May 1791
Original at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/7/17 Copy letter from Philadelphia to Bishop Samuel Seabury of the Episcopal Church, Connecticut, describing Coke's background in the Church of England, and how his opinions had moved away from advocating Methodist separation to one of reunion, as evidenced by the sermons he had preached in Great Britain.
He emphasizes the strength of the Methodists in the United States and how a union could be effected, namely by the acceptance of Methodist deacons and elders as ministers, and the consecration of Francis Asbury and Coke himself as Episcopalian bishops - not, Coke emphasizes, through personal ambition but to allay Methodist suspicions. He expresses his fears re Asbury's opinions on this matter.
14 May 1791
Publication record: Facsimile in the Bodleian Library.

PLP/28/7/18 Copy letter from Bishop William White, re Coke's proposals for union of the Methodist and the Episcopal Churches. He can see no great difficulty 'provided there be a conciliatory disposition on both sides', and he hopes to have the opportunity to discuss the matter in person.
May? 1791
Publication record: Nathan Bangs, History of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 4 vols (New York, 1845), ii, 204.

PLP/28/7/19 Copy of PLP/28/7/18.

PLP/28/7/20 Copy letter from London to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, asking him to send the interest due on the Coity estate mortgage.
Coke mentions his shipwreck on Edisto Island, off the coast of South Carolina, and his intention to return to the United States in about a year.
13 July 1791
Original in the archives of the MMS.
From London to Joseph Benson at the Methodist Chapel in Birmingham, re the movement towards separation from the Church of England. Coke agrees with Benson that this would be 'very prejudicial', leading to division within the Methodists, and possible involvement with radical politics. In this regard Coke now believes that the ordinations carried out by John Wesley, and with which he agreed at the time, were mistaken.
Coke describes his meetings with Bishop William White to discuss union with the American Episcopalian Church, and the subsequent decision by himself and Francis Asbury to refer the matter to the Conference at Baltimore. He hopes that similar moves can take place in Britain.
15 July 1791

From London to Mrs Charles Wesley re manuscripts left by John Wesley.
Coke mentions that he is leaving for France the next day.
11 Sept. 1791
This letter is pasted on to the back of a printed letter of 23 April 1809 from Coke to an unnamed correspondent, re the repeal of the law passed in Jamaica preventing the negroes from receiving instruction.

Copy letter from Jersey, Channel Islands, to Francis Asbury in the United States, asking for a reply to his letters, and regretting Coke's 'imprudence', in preaching John Wesley's funeral sermon. He says that Asbury should make allowances, considering the influence of John Wesley on Coke, and Wesley's 'great prejudice' against Asbury.
He asks that a meeting between the two men be arranged for November [1792].
23 Sept. 1791
Publication record: Journal and letters of Francis Asbury, iii, 101ff.
Baltimore, re Coke’s visit to France, and the formation of societies in Normandy. He also visited Paris, but there is ‘no established work there at present’. He hopes to see Cooper at the General Conference [Baltimore 1792].

Reference is also made to the sending of missionaries to Sierra Leone in West Africa, and William Black’s report on the good work being carried out in Nova Scotia, Canada.

In a postscript Coke mentions his scalded leg which has laid him up for a month.

21 Nov. 1791

Original at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/7/30

Copy letter to [Walter] Churchey, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the success of Coke’s Mission to Normandy, where 800 protestants near Caen, ‘put themselves under our instruction’. Results in Paris were, however, disappointing.

Coke’s leg is now beginning to heal.

23 Dec. 1791

Publication record: Wesleyan Methodist Magazine (1828), 198.

PLP/28/7/31

Copy of PLP/28/7/30.

PLP/28/7/32

Copy letter from an unnamed correspondent [Charles Wesley Junior], expressing his good intentions toward his uncle’s ‘people’, but at the same time unwillingness to sign away any claim that he might have on John Wesley’s estate.

n.d. [1791]

Original at Emory University.

PLP/28/8/- Letters, 1791–92

PLP/28/8/1

From London to an unnamed correspondent, inviting him to attend a meeting to ‘consult with us and other friends on a subject of great importance’.

18 Jan. 1792

PLP/28/8/2

Copy of PLP/28/8/1.

PLP/28/8/3

From London to Mr Churchey thanking him for his efforts on behalf of the Connexion. He states
that the Brecon Bank would be a suitable place of deposit for subscriptions to the *Life of John Wesley*, which is close to publication.

26 Jan. 1792

The biography of John Wesley by Coke and Henry Moore, was published in 1792, and was issued to forestall John Whitehead, who had denied the use of Wesley's papers to Coke and Moore, and whose own *Life of Wesley* in two volumes appeared between 1793 and 1796.

PLP/28/8/4 Copy of PLP/28/8/3.

PLP/28/8/5 Copy letter to [Walter] Churchey, at Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the financial aspects of supplying books to booksellers. About 400 pages of the Wesley biography had been printed, and subscriptions to the first edition of 10,000 copies had already been received.

3 Mar. 1792

Original in the Bridewell Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.


PLP/28/8/6 From London to [Walter] Churchey, re the biography of John Wesley, and an unspecified proposal by Dr Whitehead.

14 Mar. 1792

PLP/28/8/7 Copy letter from Bristol to the preacher at St Austell, Cornwall, enclosing Coke's intended itinerary between 1 and 19 May, covering Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. Coke intends to stay at the house of Mr Flamand.

26 Apr. 1792

Original at SMU.


PLP/28/8/9 Copy letter from Hinxworth, Hertfordshire, to Samuel Bradburn, apologizing for not replying to Bradburn's letters, and giving details of Coke's extensive travels throughout England, since the beginning of May.

30 May 1792

Original at the WHS Library.

From Leeds, Yorkshire, on behalf of the Conference, to Charles Wesley, Junior, re the chapel at Lakenheath in Suffolk. Coke states that the value of the property is no more than £60, that it was built by public subscription, and not with money raised by John Wesley. Moreover it had never been used except as a place of worship. Bearing the above in mind, Conference believes that a Court of Equity would order 'ample relief' to the Lakenheath Methodists, should the building be taken away from them. Coke adds as his personal opinion, that he would not 'convert a place of divine worship from its original use for a thousand worlds'.
11 Aug. 1793

Copy letter from Newcastle to John S. Stamp, re a proposed visit to Whitehaven, Hull, Bridlington, Scarborough, Whitby and Ireland.
31 Aug. 1793
Original at the WHS Library.

Copy of PLP/28/8/12.

Copy of PLP/28/8/15.

From Birmingham to [Walter] Churchev, stating that he has not heard anything from Antigua, West Indies, and that when he returns to London, he will negotiate with Mr Lackington re the sale of books.
Coke intends to send the foreign mission subscribers a volume describing his journeys and relevant financial accounts.
Reference is made to the flourishing state of the missions in the West Indies and the United States.
12 Oct. 1793

Part of a letter from Coke to Samuel Bradburn.
21 Feb. 1794

Copy accounts, drawn up in the Hague, Holland, detailing Coke's personal contributions to the West Indian Mission, 1787–93.
17 Mar. 1794
Copy of PLP/28/8/17.

Copy letter from Bristol to an unnamed correspondent in the United States (carried by Dr Davidge), describing his busy work-load, including his recent visits to the West Indies, Holland and the 'principal English Societies'. Coke expresses his intention of improving his knowledge of French, in readiness to carry out missions in that country once the war was over. Mention is also made of the cost of the West Indian Mission – £1,200 per year. He also gives a detailed description of the success in Yorkshire, where 10,000 converts have been made in the last year.

23 July 1793
Original in the possession of the Baltimore Methodist Historical Society.

Copy of PLP/28/8/19.

Copy letter from Bristol, to Charles Wesley, Junior, asking him on behalf of the Conference to return £2,000 principal, in return for which 5% will be paid annually to Wesley during his life, and £2,000 to his children after his death.

31 July 1794
Annotated – 'Verbatim copy G.J.S.' [i.e. G.J. Stephenson].

Copy of PLP/28/8/21.

From Newcastle [Emlyn?], Pembrokeshire, to Joseph Benson, at Manchester, asking him to maintain unity among the 'great body of the Methodists', rather than lead a division of the Church.

14 Aug. 1794
This document refers to the Bristol controversy, when Henry Moore was prevented from preaching in the New Room because of his administering the Sacrament in Portland Street Chapel.


Copy of PLP/28/8/23.

From Coke, Henry Moore, Samuel Bradburn and Thomas Rutherford in Bristol to an unnamed correspondent in Manchester [Joseph Benson], re the worsening situation in Bristol, and the improbability of a reconciliation between the
Connexion and the trustees. Mention is made of the erection of the Broadmead Chapel. They ask Benson not to come to Bristol, unless he is prepared to support them against the trustees. Alexander Mather will likewise be asked to remain in Hull, Yorkshire.
17 Aug. 1794


PLP/28/8/27 Copy letter from Coke, Henry Moore and Thomas Rutherford to John King in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, re the Bristol controversy, and the end of 'trustee-tyranny'. Mention is also made of the erection of a chapel in Horsefair, Bristol.
25 Aug. 1794

PLP/28/8/28 Copy letter from Coke, Henry Moore, John Grant, Benjamin Rhodes, Jonathan Crowther and Thomas Rutherford to Joseph Benson in Gloucester, re Moore's expulsion from the Bristol Chapels of Broadmead and Guinea Street, and the resulting division in the Church. Benson is asked to give assurances that he will not preach in the secessionist Chapels, and to indicate his support for the Connexion by preaching in the Portland Street Chapel in Bristol on Wednesday evening.
1 Sept. 1794

PLP/28/8/29 Minutes of the District Meeting held at Portland Street Chapel, Bristol. This meeting expelled the trustees of the Guinea Street Chapel, and the Room in Bristol, and also judged that Joseph Benson, Thomas Vasey and Richard Rodda had 'withdrawn themselves from the Methodist Connexion' through their support for the trustees.
16 Sept. 1794

PLP/28/8/30 Copy letter from London to George Mackie, watch-maker of City Road, London, asking him to preach at Barnet the following day. Details are given of the coach-journey that would be needed, and the reception arrangements in Barnet.
1794
Original in the possession of Mr H. Ray.
Copy letter from Dublin to [John] King in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, re the 'proposals for peace drawn up by Messrs Pawson, Mather & myself', to prevent a division of the Church. Coke invites King's thoughts on the matter. He also mentions that he has sent two tracts: one on the settlement of preaching houses; and the other, an alphabetical list of all the preachers. These have been sanctioned by Conference. Coke asks that King recommend them to his circuit.

17 Apr. 1795
Original at Duke University.

Copy letter from Ireland to Ezekiel Cooper in the United States. Coke refers to the great spread of Methodism throughout Europe, and then describes the state of some of the major foreign missions in some detail. In the West Indies the mission continues to flourish despite the loss of four preachers to yellow fever inside twelve months. Six missionaries have recently been sent out. In Sierra Leone, West Africa, 400 converts have been made, and there are plans to establish a presence 500 miles from the coast, 'among a people lately discovered'. Coke refers to his present tour through Ireland, and his intention to attend the American General Conference in Baltimore in October 1796. He congratulates Cooper on the progress of the District Schools in the United States. Mention is also made of Coke's Bible Commentary and his aim to begin printing in October 1795. Coke urges Cooper to have 'great compassion' on the negroes and he looks forward to the day when Methodism can play a key role in bringing slavery to an end.

23 Apr. 1795
Original at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.
Copy letter from Dublin to George Holder re Coke's proposals for preventing a division of the Church. Reference is made to the Bristol controversy. Coke states that he has been suffering from a fever, and had been close to death, but is now much better.
3 Jul. 1795
Publication record: The Wesley Banner (1851), 394.
Original at MMS.

Copy of PLP/28/9/4.

Copy letter to Samuel Parker of Fleet Street, London, inviting him to a meeting of the Committee for the Foulah Mission in Sierra Leone, at Sierra Leone House, next Monday.
25 Nov. 1795
Original at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

From London to Joseph Benson in Leeds, Yorkshire, expressing great concern over the increasing doubts held by the government regarding the Connexion's loyalty to the Crown, and the possibility that steps might be taken to check the movement's growth, including a ban on the Conference. These worries were confirmed to Coke by William Wilberforce in a private interview. Enclosed for Benson's consideration is a draft address to the King, affirming the movement's loyalty - to be signed by all preachers and principal members. Coke asks Benson to keep this communication secret, until copies are ready for distribution. At the bottom of this letter is a note written and signed by John Pawson, agreeing with Coke's actions.
21 Dec. 1795

Two copy letters from London re the draft address to the King.
Dec. 1795
Illegible in places.

Copy letter from Coke and John Pawson to an unnamed correspondent, giving instructions for
the collection of signatures on the Loyal Address. In a post-script Coke adds that 'there is no time to be lost'.
9 Jan. 1796
Original at Emory University.

PLP/28/9/10 Copy of PLP/28/9/9.

PLP/28/9/11 From Portsea, Hampshire, to Joseph Benson in Leeds, Yorkshire, re William Thompson's opposition to the proposed Loyal Address. Extracts from two of his letters on the subject are enclosed. Coke rejects Pawson's idea of referring the proposal to the District Meeting, as this will turn them into 'disputing clubs'. He considers that with the support of Mather, Bradburn, Hanby and Pawson, he can get the Connexion to accept the Address, dealing a fatal blow to 'Methodist Jacobinism'. Reference is made to the imminent departure of seven missionaries for the interior of Africa.
6 Feb. 1796

PLP/28/9/12 Copy of PLP/28/9/11.

PLP/28/9/13 From Portsea, Hampshire, to an unidentified correspondent enclosing proposals for the settlement of Portsmouth Chapel in Hampshire.
12 Feb. 1796

PLP/28/9/14 Copy letter from Bath, Somerset, to an unidentified correspondent, asking if Mr Ponteville [a Frenchman converted by Mr Reece on Guernsey in the Channel Islands] would be willing to travel with Coke to Bristol. Reference is made to writing to Mr Dundas about an unspecified persecution – possibly an early reference to the Jersey Militia affair.
6 Mar. 1796
Original at Emory University.

PLP/28/9/15 Copy of PLP/28/9/14.

PLP/28/9/16 Copy letter from Coke and Francis Asbury in Greensville County, Virginia, to John Dickenson of Wilmington, Delaware asking for a renewal of a grant of land [unspecified location], as the original deed has been lost. The grant should be
made out to Jacob Baker, Thomas Haskins and Caleb North, merchants of Philadelphia, on behalf of the recently constituted fund for the support of travelling preachers in the mountains and the Western Territories, and for the assistance of superannuated preachers and the orphans and widows of preachers.

In a postscript Coke states that it had been his intention to visit Dickenson in person, but he must return to England. He returns to the United States in twelve months and will pay his respects then.

17 Nov. 1796

Original in possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

PLP/28/9/17 Copy of PLP/28/9/16.

PLP/28/9/18 Order signed by Coke to George Whitfield [Keeper of the Book Room], City Road, London, to pay £20 to Mr Gown, and place it in the West Indies Mission accounts.

1797

PLP/28/9/19 Copy letter from Downpatrick, Ireland, to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, informing him of Coke's decision to move permanently to the United States.

He asks that Williams wind up Coke's remaining financial interests, namely the Coyty mortgage, and his accounts with Howell at the 'Shoulder of Mutton'. He also states his intention to resign his place on the Brecon Common Council.

Coke declares that because of his considerable expenditure on behalf of the Connexion, there is little of his personal fortune remaining, although he values his library at between £200 and £300.

5 Apr. 1797

Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/9/20 Copy letter from Norfolk, Virginia, to John Pawson enclosing an extract from his journal re Coke's capture by a French privateer.

He intends to attend the Virginia Conference before leaving New York for England in December.

10 Nov. 1797

Publication record: Wesleyan Methodist Magazine (1814), 125.
Copy letter from New York to Ezekiel Cooper regretting the loss to the American Connexion of married preachers withdrawing due to lack of financial support. Coke offers £60 per annum from his own money to support three deserving married preachers with £20 each. He asks that this arrangement be kept secret, as Coke might himself lose financial help with his own travelling expenses. 6 Dec. 1797

From St Helier, Jersey, to Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, re Coke's interview with General Gordon concerning the persecution of Methodists in Jersey. The General's attitude towards the Connexion was sympathetic, although he disliked on financial grounds the idea of allowing the Methodists to carry out their militia training during the week, rather than on a Sunday. Coke states that with Dundas's support he is certain that the General will give way. Colonel Masservy and Lieutenant Bailli, officers charged with the defence of Jersey, testify that the Methodists are a 'most peaceable and loyal people', and that their military discipline is good. Jan. 1799

Copy of PLP/28/10/1.

Copy letter from Jersey to Ezekiel Cooper in the United States, re Coke's successful efforts to halt the persecution of Methodists on Jersey, and his activities in Ireland during the recent rebellion helping local preachers to allay government suspicion of the Connexion. He intends to visit Ireland again in the Spring, before attending the English Conference in July, and leaving for New York in September. Coke criticizes the lack of a married ministry in America, and expresses his hope that the General Conference will address the problem. Reference is made to the loss of 5,000 people to the newly formed Methodist New Connexion -
as troublesome a set of people, that ever plagued a Church of Christ', and the death of Alexander Kilham is described. Coke estimates that 7,000 new converts have joined the Wesleyans since the schism. Coke describes the difficulties of raising money for the West Indian Mission because of the cost of erecting chapels to replace those lost to the Methodist New Connexion. Twelve new missionaries have been sent to the West Indies in the last eleven months, and he estimates the cost of the year's work at £2,400.

12 Jan. 1799
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/10/4 Detailed biographical notes on Coke's life.
   n.d.

PLP/28/10/5 Missing.

PLP/28/10/6 Copy letter to Alexander Mather informing him that Coke has asked Mr H- [Christopher Harrison] to preach so that his suitability for missionary work in the West Indies can be assessed.
   Aug. 1799
   Publication record: Wesleyan Methodist Magazine (1850), 1168.

PLP/28/10/7 Copy letter from Bangor Ferry in North Wales to an unnamed correspondent [Thomas Williams of Brecon], asking him to send the £200 owing from the Coyty mortgage in order to finance the printing of Coke's Bible Commentary. The money should be sent directly to Andrew Strahan M.P. of Little New Street, London, and Williams's reply sent to Coke at the house of William Brocklehurst in Manchester.
   19 July 1799
   Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/10/8 Copy letter from Dublin to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the payment of money owed from a mortgage.
   In a postscript Coke thanks Williams for subscribing to his Bible Commentary.
   Enclosed is a copy receipt for £200, received by Coke from Williams, dated 3 Jan. 1800.
   17 Oct. 1799
   Original at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.
Printed letter, addressed to the West Indian Mission subscribers, containing an account of the Mission's progress since 1786. Detailed statistics are enclosed, some of which have been altered by hand, probably by Coke himself.
13 Aug. 1798

On the back of this document is a letter sent from Leeds, Yorkshire, to Mr Jones in London. Coke states his intention to write an illustrated history of the West Indies, with special reference to the missions, in accordance with the wishes of several leading subscribers. He asks Jones to obtain and read histories of the islands and other relevant publications, and compile a 'syllabus' for Coke. He will be reimbursed for his expense. The missionaries in the West Indies have been asked to collect material which is unavailable in London. Reference is made to the despatch of a manuscript copy of Coke's *Bible Commentary* to Andrew Strahan.
6 Dec. 1799

From on board the 'Earl Gower', bound for New York, storm-bound in Falmouth Roads, Cornwall, to Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, re a motion about to be placed before Parliament concerning Protestant Dissenters. Coke seeks to clarify the status of the Methodists – 'by no means a regular body of Dissenters', and asks that nothing be done to curb religious toleration. Coke mentions that this is probably his last visit to the United States.
10 Feb. 1800

Copy letter from London to an unnamed correspondent [probably Thomas Williams], re the Rudman and Harris affair. Mr Vowles has been entrusted with the ejection of Stubbs and the renting of the Oldland Estate.
1 Apr. [?1801]
Original in the WHS Library.
The above transcript bears the date 1 April 1800, but this is impossible as Coke was visiting the United States at that time.
Source: Dr John Vickers.
Copy of PLP/28/11/2.


Circular letter to Mr Barbor [Thomas Barber] at the Longford Preaching House, Ireland, enclosing details of the accounts of the Irish preachers as determined by the British Conference. In a separate note Coke describes the displeasure of the Conference at Barber’s address to them. He asks that communications sent to Coke should be addressed to Bruce’s booksellers in City Road, London, rather than to the London Society, and also that the preachers should discuss this matter only among themselves. He describes attacks made upon him ‘for want of fidelity’, and he declares his love for Ireland and the Irish preachers.
7 Aug. 1800


Cutting from The Weekly Register containing a letter sent by Coke from London to the editor, re the publication in several London and provincial newspapers of two letters supposedly written by John Wesley, and published in a critical biography of Wesley by J. Collet in 1791. Coke encloses a letter sent to him by Collet on 24 Jan 1801 in which Collet repudiates his book, and states that the letters referred to are his own inventions.
30 Jan. 1801

Copy letter from London to [George] Roberts in Baltimore, enclosing a copy of the minutes of the last British Conference, and an account of work among Irish Roman Catholics. Mention is also made of the flourishing mission to Irish protestants. Coke expresses his wish to move permanently to the United States, and on his next visit in two years time he hopes to bring a number of complete sets of his Old Testament Commentary, by which time his New Testament Commentary should also be ready for publication.
Coke states that he is in good health and is able to walk ten miles a day.
28 Feb. 1801
Original at Drew University.


PLP/28/11/12 Copy letter from London to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the Coyty Estate mortgage. Reference is made to Coke's forthcoming visit to Ireland via Manchester and Liverpool.
10 Mar. 1801
Original at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.


PLP/28/11/13 Copy letter from William Brocklehurst's house, Lever Row, Manchester, re an approach made to Coke by a Mr Middleton, linen draper of Hull, Yorkshire, with information about a 'Grand Association' forming in Lancashire and the north of England. Additional information has been given by Mr Wild, a Methodist of Sheffield, Yorkshire. Coke promises to investigate further during his stay in Bolton, Lancashire.
14 Mar. 1801

PLP/28/11/14 Copy letter from William Brocklehurst's house, Manchester, re the existence of a revolutionary organization in Lancashire. Information has been passed to Coke by a Methodist preacher about the taking of oaths in Bolton and Oldham, and confirmation has been given by Daniel Burton, a calico printer of Bolton.
16 Mar. 1801

PLP/28/11/15 Copy letter from William Brocklehurst's house, Manchester, re the breaking up by the yeomanry of a seditious meeting in the city, with the arrest of fifty people.
17 Mar. 1801
Copy letter from William Brocklehurst’s house, Manchester, enclosing the form of an oath administered to people plotting against the government.
19 Mar. 1801

Copy letter from John Royle’s house, Macclesfield, Cheshire, re an organization in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, called the Ezekielites, which information Coke had been given by a gentleman who had shared his carriage.
He compares the present situation with the rebellion in Ireland [1798], and reminds the Home Secretary of the information given by Coke during that emergency.
24 Mar. 1801
Public Record Office reference HO/42/61/fo. 311.

Copy letter from William Brocklehurst’s house, Manchester, enclosing the form of an oath found on a man apprehended for theft in Oldham, Lancashire. Coke fears that Birmingham and Sheffield also contain revolutionary groups.
In a postscript Coke mentions that the three Methodists arrested for sedition had in fact been expelled from the Society five years before because of their democratic beliefs.
4 Apr. 1801

Copy letter from William Brocklehurst’s house, Manchester, re a seditious meeting held near Oldham, Lancashire.
7 Apr. 1801

Copy letter from Mr Hague, a merchant of Leeds, Yorkshire, re meetings of rebels on the moors near Oldham, Lancashire.
Coke also relates an incident in which the military were called out on Easter Sunday in response to a false alarm.
18 Apr. 1801

Copy letter from Wakefield, Yorkshire, re a meeting of 1,800 rebels on Grange Moor, near
Huddersfield, Yorkshire. He expresses his fears of an uprising in support of a French invasion. Coke offers his services to the government during his forthcoming visit to Ireland. In a postscript Coke suggests that corn granaries be erected throughout the country as a means of winning favour with the people.

19 Aug. 1801
Public Record Office reference HO/42/62/fo. 408.

PLP/28/11/22 From Mr Middleton’s house in Hull, Yorkshire, to Mr Wood, asking him to send on a jacket which Coke had left behind after his visit.
16 Dec. 1801

PLP/28/11/23 Copy letter from Warrington, Lancashire, to an unnamed correspondent, asking him to settle Coke’s bill to his barber in Liverpool and claim the money back from Mr Jenkins.
7 Apr. 1802
Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/11/24 Copy of PLP/28/11/23

PLP/28/11/25 From London to an unnamed correspondent, thanking him for the money raised by his circuit to help foreign missions. Coke mentions that 6,000 have been converted in the United States in the last year.
30 Apr. 1802

PLP/28/11/26 Copy letter from London, to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re the deed to an unspecified property. Coke also asks Williams to pay his [Brecon] Corporation expenses.
1 May 1802
Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/11/27 Copy letter from Liverpool to Thomas Williams, attorney of Brecon, Brecknockshire, re stray letters. Reference is also made to Coke’s extensive travels around Ireland and the north of England. Any mail should be sent to Mr Hope of Rigby Street, Liverpool.
18 Mar. 1802
Original at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.
Copy letter from Liverpool to an unnamed American correspondent, applauding reports of the progress of work in Maryland, Delaware and Tennessee. Coke hopes to be able to finally settle in the United States by the time of the next General Conference. Reference is made to the continuing work in Ireland as recently reported on by [Ezekiel] Cooper, but there is nothing of significance happening in Britain. Coke maintains a lengthy discourse on the nature of the sermons that ought to be preached, including the importance of stressing 'necessity of sanctification and entire devotedness to God'.

? March 1802
Original at Boston University.

Copy of PLP/28/11/28.

Copy letter from Hull, Yorkshire, to the Revd John Brownell at the Methodist Chapel in Basse Terre, on the island of St Christopher, West Indies, recommending the bearer, Edward Thompson, as suitable for work on the island. In a postscript Coke states that the minutes will be forwarded with Brother Thompson, and that Brownell's accounts are satisfactory.

27 Sept. 1802
Original in the possession of E. Austen, 1936.

Copy of PLP/28/11/30.

Copy of PLP/28/11/33.

From Sunderland, County Durham, to an unnamed correspondent in Carlisle, Cumberland, advising him to take up an appointment in Dundee, and expressing his regrets that he will not be able to visit Carlisle during his present tour.

19 Oct. 1802

On the reverse of this document is a letter sent to the same correspondent by John Braithwaite, suggesting that he take up the Dundee appointment, despite the fact that 'I know that you have not a favourable opinion of Scotland'. Braithwaite remarks that Dundee is a very
pleasant place and that he should discuss the matter with his friends in Carlisle.
18 Oct. 1802

From Newcastle, Northumberland, to Revd George Whitfield in London, enclosing £40. The collection from Sunderland Chapel, Co. Durham, will follow shortly.
Correspondence should be sent to Coke at Darlington, Co. Durham. Coke asks Whitfield to write to Mr Warrener on an unspecified matter, and he thanks him for his poem 'My Philomela-my Homer'.
In a postscript Coke mentions the sailing of two missionaries from Liverpool, and the increased expenditure associated with missionary ventures. He states that his own expenditure is less than that of anybody else.
7 Dec. 1802

Copy letter from William Brocklehurst's house, Manchester, to Lieutenant Malone, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands, re the apparent 'satanical possession' afflicting the gentleman of the house where Coke is staying. Coke asks Malone to send him an account of his own experiences.
15 Feb. 1803
Original at Duke University.

Copy letter from London to Mr Moulton at the Chapel in Norwich, Norfolk, re Coke's pre-occupation with his Bible Commentary until his departure for the United States.
Coke asks that Moulton carry out the house to house collections for the foreign missions.
11 May 1803
Original formerly in the possession of the late Dr Elmer T. Clark.

Copy of PLP/28/11/37.

Copy of PLP/28/5/10.

Copy of PLP/28/11/39.
Copy letter from Lincolnshire to Ezekiel Cooper in the United States, informing him of Coke's intended departure for America in October [1803]. Coke reiterates his intention to remain permanently in America, despite efforts by the British Connexion to change his mind.

The West Indian Mission continues to be supported, and reference is made to Coke's continued good health.

In a postscript Coke states that 1,100 new converts have been made in Britain in the last year, and that the country is threatened with a French invasion.

29 Aug. 1803
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Copy letter from Lincolnshire to Alexander Sturgeon in Sligo, Ireland, asking that any money owing to Coke should be sent before his departure for the United States, so that the printer can be paid for the Bible Commentary.

Coke gives in detail his reasons for sailing before the winter, namely the weather, the possibility of capture by the French, and the near completion of his Commentary. He states that he will not remain in America unless he can be certain that it is God's wish that he do so.

Coke requests that the date of the Irish Conference in July [1804] be changed, to allow him to attend.

Sept. 1803

In an attached note Jabez Bunting states that Coke sailed from Gravesend, Kent, on 21 September.

19 Oct. 1803

From Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to Mr Wrigley in Leicester, giving his reasons for sailing to the United States before the winter. The extra time will also allow him to visit the principal societies, and decide if it is his vocation to remain in America. Reference is made to Coke's promise to the Manchester Conference [1803], re his intentions.

He describes in detail the progress of his Bible Commentary, and his intention to send the
completed papers back to England with Mr Lowry, a missionary appointed to Bermuda, who is returning to England through ill health.

Coke thanks the British Connexion for the favours they have shown him.

In a postscript Coke adds that the price of his *Commentary* will be two guineas.

Sept. 1803


An exact copy of this letter was also sent to Messrs Bland and Douglas in Peel, Isle of Man.

PLP/28/11/44  Copy of PLP/28/11/43.


PLP/28/11/46  Copy letter from Petersburg, Virginia, to Richard Whatcoat in Baltimore, informing him of his arrival in America. Coke had landed initially in Norfolk, Virginia, but had left there due to an outbreak of yellow fever. Reference is made to Coke's wish to remain in the United States. He intends to visit Richmond, Fredericksburg, Alexandria, George Town, Washington and Baltimore.

Coke's *Bible Commentary* is almost completed, and he hopes to have sent it to his printer by the time of the General Conference.

2 Nov. 1803

Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

PLP/28/11/47  Copy of PLP/28/11/46.

PLP/28/11/48  Copy letter from Petersburg, Virginia to an unnamed correspondent, informing him of his arrival in Norfolk, Virginia, and his hasty departure due to the outbreak of yellow fever from which Messrs Ormond and Jarratt have since died.

Coke gives details of his itinerary [see PLP/28/11/46], and asks if his correspondent can suggest a place for him to stay. He needs a quiet room where he can finish his *Bible Commentary*—possibly at Mr Manley's house.

Coke asks about the whereabouts of Mr Lowry, as he wishes to send the *Commentary* and other papers back to England with him, and he would
also like to know about the availability of American ships sailing for London in the new year.

Coke sends his regards to [Jacob] Baker and Mr Comeyges.

In a postscript Coke states that he has written to Mr Sargent re Lowing’s ‘call’.

14 Nov. 1803

Original in the possession of the Baltimore Methodist Historical Society.


PLP/28/12/- Letters 1804

PLP/28/12/1 Copy letter from Bradford [on Avon], Wilts, to Mr [Robert] Blunt in Frome, Somerset, informing him that Coke is preaching at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, the following day and he must therefore defer his visit.

6 Jan.[1805]

Original in the WHS Library.

The date given on the transcript of this letter is 6 January 1804. This is clearly wrong as Coke was in the United States at that time.

Related materials: See also PLP/28/13/1.

PLP/28/12/2 Copy of PLP/28/12/1.

PLP/28/12/3 Copy letter from Charleston, South Carolina, to Revd Lyell in Boston, re Coke’s intended arrival in Boston on 25 or 30 March.

Coke is concerned that Lyell has not replied to his last letter which was written from Ellis’s house, near Richmond, Virginia. He suggests that Lyell travel with him to the General Conference. He intends sending twenty-five sets of his Bible Commentary to Boston to await his arrival.

30 Jan. 1804

Original in the possession of the New England Methodist Historical Society.

PLP/28/12/4–6 Copies of PLP/28/12/3

PLP/28/12/7 Copy letter from Charleston, South Carolina, to Revd Stith Mead in Augusta, Georgia, informing him that Francis Asbury has asked Coke not to
comment publicly on the Baptist Address, and he must therefore deny Mead’s request that he put his views down on paper.

If Mead writes on the subject, Coke advises him to point out the impossibility of the Georgia Methodist ministers attending the proposed meeting because of the timing of the General Conference, and also their concern that there should be such a difference of opinion.

Coke expects that twenty-five sets of his *Bible Commentary* will soon arrive at Mr Cantelow’s house. They should be sold at twenty-five dollars a set.

31 Jan. 1804
Original at SMU.

PLP/28/12/8 Copy letter to the Revd Messrs Lyell and Kibby in Boston, *re* his intended arrival in Boston on 24 March. He would like preaching appointments made for him the following day. He also wishes to visit Lynn and Marblehead, Massachusetts. Twenty-five sets of the *Bible Commentary* have been sent on to Boston.

In a postscript Coke requests the company of Lyell and Kibby on his journey back to Baltimore.

10 Mar. 1804
Original in the possession of the New England Methodist Historical Society.

PLP/28/12/9-11 Copies of PLP/28/12/8,

PLP/28/12/12 Copy testimonial addressed to Governor Beckwith of Bermuda recommending Revd William Black, Superintendent for twenty years of Societies in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He states that Black had sailed to Bermuda on an American ship because of the danger of capture by the French.

Coke himself intends sailing for Liverpool the next day.

28 May 1804
Original in the possession of the Baltimore Methodist Historical Society.

PLP/28/12/13 Copy of PLP/28/12/12.

PLP/28/12/14 Copy letter from Philadelphia to the Revd [Epaphras] Kibby in Boston, asking him to accept
a free set of Coke's *Bible Commentary* to repay him for his efforts in promoting sales of the work. Coke is concerned that one of the two cases, containing copies of the *Commentary* sent to Boston has been lost, and he asks Kibby to help Mr Haynes enquire after them to Mr Stratton, merchant of Norfolk, Virginia. He is hopeful that several sets will be wanted in Maine, and he gives further details.

He sails for Liverpool the following day, but hopes to return in about three years.

28 May 1804
Original in possession of the New England Methodist Historical Society.

**PLP/28/12/15**

Copy letter to the Revd [Epaphras] Kibby in Boston, *re* the case containing copies of the *Bible Commentary*, lost in transit between Norfolk, Virginia, and Boston.

Coke mentions his impending departure for Liverpool, and his intention to return in three years.

30 May 1804
Original in possession of the New England Methodist Historical Society.

**PLP/28/12/16**

Copy letter from the Bay of Delaware to an unnamed correspondent [Revd George Roberts], insisting that he accept a free copy of the *Bible Commentary*, and asking him to recommend the work to the Presiding Elder in Baltimore.

4 June 1804
Original at Drew University.

**PLP/28/12/17**

Copy PLP/28/12/16

**PLP/28/12/18**

From Coke and Henry Moore on behalf of the Conference to an unnamed correspondent, accepting him as a ‘labourer in our Lord’s vineyard’.

31 July 1804

**PLP/28/12/19**

Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, as carried by the Revd Sutcliffe, to the Revd Joshua Marsden in Nova Scotia, complaining that the missionaries have been negligent in writing to him.
Coke states that he had promised the Revd Black that Coke would allow £15 per annum to Marsden if he married. If he hears a good account of Marsden’s work, then next year he will allow him access to the Preachers’ Fund.
31 Aug. 1804

Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to an unnamed correspondent [Joshua Marsden], enclosing very detailed financial accounts for the preparation of the Revd Sutcliffe and his family for departure for the mission in Nova Scotia. Coke and Messrs Brackenbury and Averell have heard Sutcliffe preach, and are satisfied with his performance.
Coke encloses his foreign mission account, including figures arising from the sale of the Bible Commentary.
Coke asks for a copy of the West Indian stations to be sent to him by Jabez Bunting.
In a postscript Coke mentions the arrival of Mr Gillgrass, who is shortly to sail from Liverpool with Mr Morrison for an unspecified location [West Indies].
Coke advises that Sutcliffe sail in an American ship to avoid possible capture by the French, and he also gives details of Sutcliffe’s clothing needs.
31 Aug. 1804
Original in the archives of the MMS.

Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to Messrs Lomax [Lomas] and Whitfield in City Road, London, asking them to send certain publications to Mr Sowerby in Lord Street, Liverpool, namely Coke’s Old Testament Commentary, Simeon’s Helps, John Wesley’s Sermons, and Brainerd’s Journals. The books are intended for Morrison and Gillgrass, who are about to sail for the West Indies.
Coke expresses his satisfaction, both with Gilgrass and with Mr Sutcliffe, who is to join the Nova Scotia Mission.
In a postscript Coke asks that copies of the minutes of the Conference be sent to Liverpool for despatch to the United States.
1 Sept. 1804
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.
Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to Mr Remmington, expressing concern that the reports from Bristol about his abilities are not good. If Remmington is not well-received in Carbonneau, and Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, then he is to go to Buonavista on the island, where 600 adults are without instruction.

7 Sept. 1804

Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Letters to the Missionary Committee in London. Several of the letters are addressed to the Revd Joseph Entwisle and the Revd Robert Lomas, members of the Committee.

Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Copy letter re Coke's cooperation with the Committee in the administration of the foreign missions - his zeal being offset by their 'frugal spirit'. He is thankful for their assistance as he is growing old and does not expect to live much longer.

Coke agrees that all official correspondence should be sent to the Secretary of the Committee, and he encloses a draft letter to the missionaries to this effect. He explains that because he has long been accustomed to supervising the missions unassisted, he did not believe that he was doing anything wrong by sending a circular letter without consulting them.

Coke mentions Mr Sutcliffe and he explains in detail his reasons for sending Mr Remmington to Nova Scotia despite his lack of ability.

In a postscript Coke asks that copies of the Conference minutes should be sent to New York with Sutcliffe.

7 Sept. 1804

Copy letter complaining that the Committee's letter had caused Coke to lose sleep and impair his health. He explains his reasons for opposing the existence of a Missionary Committee between Conferences, and he refuses to renounce his superintendency over the missions.
Coke complains that he was pressured into allowing an alteration of the phrasing of the relevant Conference minute, and that the Committee's demand to exercise all the powers held by the Committee sitting during the Conference 'is contrary to candour, the minute of the Conference ... and the will of God'.
9 Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/25 Copy letter further explaining in great detail Coke's opposition to the Committee.
10 Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/26 Copy letter, expressing Coke's feeling of 'a perfect union of spirit with you' following the Committee's last letter.
Mr Johnston of Melrose, Scotland, has written to say that he is ready to sail for the West Indies. Coke recommends that he meet Johnston in Hull, Yorkshire, because it would be cheaper to sail from a northern port, and also to enlist Johnston's preaching skills in raising funds for the missions. He expresses concern about the cost of the missions, and he now wishes that he had not paid all his printing bills so promptly [for the Bible Commentary].
He recommends that Johnston join the mission to Antigua.
17 Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/27 Copy letter re the heavy expenditure on the West Indian Mission.
Reference is made to Johnston wishing to take his sixteen-year-old son with him to Antigua.
17 Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/28 Copy letter enclosing an account of work in Ireland and the United States, and reference is made to the mission to Bermuda.
22 Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/29 Copy letter re a circular letter to be sent to the missionaries.
Reference is made to Mr Johnston being in Alnwick, Northumberland, and to the progress of fund-raising for the foreign missions.
23 Sept. 1804
Copy letter re expenditure on the West Indian Mission, and especially a problem with paying bills arising from the mission to Dominica.
23 Sept. 1804

Copy letter from near Raithby, Lincolnshire, re the non-payment of bills incurred by the mission to Dominica, and the adverse effect that this will have on the opinions of the planters on the island. Coke has borrowed £100 from Mr Holy of Sheffield, Yorkshire, to alleviate the situation.
Messrs Gilgrass and Morrison are in Liverpool, waiting to be licensed for work in the West Indies.
25 Sept. 1804

Copy letter to an unnamed correspondent explaining the non-payment of the bills from the Dominica Mission, and offering to pay any costs that may have arisen as a result.
25 Sept. 1804

Copy letter from Boston, Lincolnshire, re miscellaneous financial matters.
Coke states that he will draw up a letter for the removal of Joseph Taylor to Barbados.
26 Sept. 1804
Original at Duke University.

Copy letter stating that Coke knew nothing of Mr Shipley's former life before being told of it in Entwisle's letter. He is however against making further enquiries and praises Shipley's good work in Dominica.
Coke requests that the Dominica bills be honoured.
27 Sept. 1804

Copy letter enclosing a letter from Mr Shipley and recommending that he be allowed to return home due to ill health. Coke advises that the societies in Prince Rupert's Bay, Dominica, be informed through Shipley that £100 will be subscribed out of the Foreign Mission Fund towards the completion of a new chapel.
With regard to the finance of the foreign missions, Coke states that any bill which is sent from the missions, that is approved of by the Committee, and yet cannot be paid due to lack of money, will be honoured by Coke himself. He expects that the general collection in Britain will raise £1,500. Coke is prepared to cancel his visit to Ireland in the spring if necessary.

The missions on St Christopher, St Bartholomew and Jamaica are also mentioned.

In a postscript Coke states that many negroes who had moved to Trinidad and Demarara were members of the society, but were now without instruction.

Sept. 1804

PLP/28/12/36 Copy letter from Hull, Yorkshire, enclosing money raised for the foreign missions.
2 Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/37 Copy letter from Hull, Yorkshire, re the arrival of Mr Johnston for his licensing by the Quarter Sessions for the West Indian Mission. Coke asks for the Committee's advice re the request that Johnston's sixteen-year-old son be allowed to accompany his parents. He expresses his doubts that the boy can survive in the Caribbean. The sailing arrangements are discussed in some detail.
4 Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/38 Copy letter from Beverley, Yorkshire, asking that Mr Johnston be given twelve sets of the Bibli Commentary for the West Indies. Coke will shortly send his spiritual report to the Revd Entwisle.
17 Oct. 1804
Original in the MMS.

PLP/28/12/39 Copy letter from Bristol promising payment of the Irish bills. Coke discusses the charges brought against Mr Shipley in Bristol [an accusation of smuggling], and Coke's efforts to intercede with the Collector of Customs before Shipley's arraignment at the Quarter Sessions. Shipley's financial situation is poor and his health is broken.
Coke is suffering from a violent cold and piles. He intends to visit London, before going on to Birmingham, Lancashire, Wales and Ireland. He asks that 400 copies of the Spiritual Account be sent to him.
29 Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/40 Copy letter from Bristol re the printing of the foreign mission accounts. Coke is convinced that he will 'get Shepley off tolerably well', and he asks the Committee to have mercy on him. 29 Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/41 Copy letter re raising funds for the foreign missions. ?Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/42 Copy letter enclosing £27 raised for the foreign missions, and promising to send the names of the subscribers in Hull, Yorkshire. He asks that the question of his being reimbursed for postage on official letters be raised at the next Committee meeting. Coke attests to the good work carried out by Mr Shipley in Dominica, where, despite suffering from recurrent attacks of yellow fever, Shipley had supervised the growth of the Society from fifty members to over one thousand. He had only returned to Britain, because of medical advice, and should not therefore be threatened with expulsion. Coke advises that he be sent to Nova Scotia to regain his health. ?Oct. 1804

PLP/28/12/43 Copy letter from Bristol giving full details of the innocent involvement of Shipley in smuggling activities. Coke has discussed the matter with the Collector of Customs, who is sympathetic, and he will also raise the subject in a meeting with the mayor and aldermen of the city. Shipley is willing to work anywhere in the world. As he came with the highest recommendations from the circuits in Manchester and Stockport, Coke approves of retaining his services, but only for overseas work. A lady, whom Coke refuses to name has pledged
to give 100 guineas to the foreign missions [PLP/28/12/2 names the lady as Miss Penelope Smith, whom Coke married in April 1805].

Reference is made to the plague outbreak in Gibraltar, and the effect on Mr McMullen and his family.

In a postscript Coke expresses his approval of the Committee's treatment of Mr Johnston.

1 Nov. 1804

James McMullen of the Gibraltar Mission died of yellow fever shortly after this letter was written.

Copy letter from Bristol enclosing £50 and promising £200 more for the foreign missions. He requests that each preacher be presented with a portrait of Coke.

He asks that the Committee defer a decision on sending Mr Shipley abroad again. He is very ill, and Coke feels that he may 'give us the slip, and go to Heaven soon'. Shipley's family have had to survive on eight shillings a week since their return.

The expenses incurred by the [London] Missionary Society are proportionally double those of the Methodists, and Coke therefore asks the Committee not to be too severe in financial matters. Shipley's attorney is confident that his client will be released by the Quarter Sessions, and the mayor and aldermen of the city have told Coke that they do not want the case brought before them.

8 Nov. 1804

Copy letter from Bristol expressing concern re the phrasing of the circular letter to the preachers. Coke believes that depicting the foreign mission finances in such a bad light is both misleading and counter-productive.

He is confident that he can raise £1,000 before visiting Ireland in the spring, and he urges the Committee not to give 'the preachers the wrong idea of our financial powers'. Furthermore Coke asks them not to be so severe with Mr Shipley, 'by throwing him out of the ministry' after twenty years work, which has shortened his life. This can only deter people from offering themselves for missionary work.

18 Nov. 1804
PLP/28/12/46 Copy letter from Bath, Somerset, enclosing £150 for the foreign missions. Dec. 1804

PLP/28/12/47 Copy letter from Bath, Somerset, re foreign mission finances. 3 Dec. 1804

PLP/28/12/48 Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, stating that he is satisfied with the decision of the Committee on an unspecified matter. 13/18 Dec. 1804

PLP/28/13/- Letters, 1805

PLP/28/13/1 Copy of PLP/28/12/1.

PLP/28/13/1(a) Copy letter from Bradford, Wiltshire, to Mr Blunt, informing him of Coke's intention to leave for Frome in Somerset the following afternoon and to have dinner with Miss Smith that evening. 9 Jan. 1805


PLP/28/13/2 Copy letter enclosing £156 for the missions, £100 of which has been given by Miss Penelope Smith of Bradford, Wiltshire - a donor whom Coke had previously refused to name. Coke states that the preachers should have sent all of his bills to the Committee, and that he did not wish any letters addressed to him to be opened from now on. 16 Jan. 1805 Coke married Miss Penelope Smith in April 1805.

PLP/28/13/3 Copy letter from Penzance, Cornwall, enclosing £94. Coke states that he is not married. 12 Feb. 1805

PLP/28/13/4 Copy letter from Bodmin, Cornwall, re Coke's plans to spend the rest of the month in Devon and Somerset. A list of Cornish subscribers to the Mission Fund
will be sent shortly, and the money raised can be put directly into the Fund.
2 Mar. 1805

PLP/28/13/5 Copy letter from Bodmin, Cornwall, informing the Committee that he does not anticipate returning to London before the Conference. He wishes to visit Wales and introduce missions there in the Welsh language. Coke is confident that the Committee can administer the fund-raising in his absence.
2 Mar. 1805

PLP/28/13/6 Copy letter from Bristol recommending Mr Cox for work in the West Indies, possibly Antigua.
4 Mar. 1805

PLP/28/13/7 Copy letter from Ashburton, Devon, to Samuel Bradburn informing him of his marriage to Penelope Smith in Bradford Church, Wiltshire. Coke gives details of his itinerary – Plymouth, Bristol, London, Dublin and Sheffield.
5 Apr. 1805
Original sold at Christie's Auctioneers, 1963.

PLP/28/13/8 Copy letter from Ashburton, Devon, to Charles Atmore informing him of his marriage.
5 Apr. 1805
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/13/9 Copy letter from Ivybridge, Devon, to Mr and Mrs Brackenbury in Newark, Nottinghamshire, informing them of his marriage.
6 Apr. 1805
Original in the Dodsworth Bequest, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

PLP/28/13/10 Copy letter from Taunton, Somerset, to Richard Whatcoat in Baltimore, emphasizing that his marriage does not alter his commitment to the American Church. However, if Coke were to return to the United States, it would probably only be in the event of Francis Asbury's death, in which case 'our Episcopal labours', would need to be placed on a 'permanent and unalterable basis'.
1 May 1805
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.
Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to an unnamed correspondent, re the removal of Mr B—.
Coke discusses the growth of the Pelagian heresy among preachers in Cornwall, and approve the strong stand taken against it by the British Conference.
21 Aug. 1805
Publication record: WHS Proc., i (1898), 103.

Copy letter from Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice giving details of Coke's intended itinerary - Boston, London, Bath and Bristol.
Reference is made to a disciplinary affair involving Messrs Burdsall and Beaumont. Coke emphasizes the need to have discipline or see Methodism break up.
He details the amount of money recently donated for the missions and gives the names of donors.
Coke states that he has drawn up an address to the East India Company and sent it to Major Sandys.
27 Aug. 1805
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Copy letter from Bristol to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice, re sending a circular letter to the Circuit Superintendents, asking them for an account of the number of preachers' children in each circuit, and for money owed from the Bible Commentary, as Coke is very heavily in debt to the printer [Mr Strahan].
He also asks that a separate communication be sent to the Superintendents reminding them to be aware of potential missionaries among their preachers.
Reference is made to Coke's intention to present some improvements to the system of mission finance for the consideration of the Conference.
Coke asks for 500 copies of the spiritual and temporal account of the missions.
29 Oct. 1805
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.
PLP/28/13/15  From Coke to his wife expressing his fervent love and admiration.  
?1805

PLP/28/13/16  Copy of PLP/28/13/15.

PLP/28/14– Letters, 1806

PLP/28/14/1  Copy letter from Falmouth, Cornwall, to the New York Conference, expressing his 'strong and unfeigned love' toward the American Church, but feeling the need to explain his past actions and motives.

Coke describes in detail the conflict that had arisen between Francis Asbury and himself during his last two visits to the United States [1800 and 1803], re Coke's future role in the episcopacy.

He emphasizes that he 'cannot come to you as a mere preacher', but must be allowed to fulfill his role as a bishop of the Church.

Throughout the letter Coke takes pains to declare his respect and affection for Asbury, despite their differences of opinion.

6 Jan. 1806
Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/14/2-3  Copies of PLP/28/14/1.

PLP/28/14/4  Copy letter from Truro, Cornwall, to Alexander McCaine, Secretary of the American General Conference, checking that Coke's reply to McCaine's official letter had been received.

He asks McCaine to write after the end of the Baltimore General Conference re the sentiments of the Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Conferences 'on the subject in hand'.

10 Jan. 1806
Original in the possession of Jacob S. Payton.

PLP/28/14/5  Copy of PLP/28/14/4.

PLP/28/14/6  To [Thomas] Allan, solicitor of London Street, near Fenchurch Street, London, asking for his opinion re
legal matters arising from trust deeds, and the legality of appointments made by the Conference. On the reverse is a list of questions re the above.
14 Jan. 1806

PLP/28/14/7 Copy letter from Biddenham, near Bedford, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice asking them to reject a bill of exchange that may be presented to them by Samuel Shaw of the 2nd battalion, 31st Regiment of Foot, stationed in Winchester, Hampshire.
Coke requests that a hamper should be sent to him in Kettering, Northamptonshire, as it will benefit the health of his wife.
Coke feels very strongly that he should accept Owen Davies's invitation to visit North Wales to preside over the Quarterly Meetings, as the work in the Principality is proceeding well, but only in the face of fierce opposition from 'Antinomian Preachers'. If the Committee wishes it for the sake of the foreign missions, Coke is prepared to cancel his visit to Ireland.
12 Feb. 1806 Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/8 Copy letter from Nottingham to Mr Cole of Kettering, Northamptonshire, regretting that the poor health of Mrs Coke had prevented them from visiting him.
He thanks him for the £20 promised towards the erection of chapels at Mount Bay, Jamaica, and Prince Rupert's Bay, Dominica.
1 Mar. 1806 Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/9 Copy of PLP/28/14/8.

PLP/28/14/10 Copy letter from Nottingham to Revd [Jonathan] Edmondson in Stourport, Worcestershire, asking him to send Mr Millman to the Brough Circuit, Westmoreland, as word had been received from Messrs Midgeley and Fairbourn that they need additional help.
In a postscript Coke asks Edmondson to advance to Millman any money that he needs and Coke will reimburse him.
3 Mar. 1806 Original at the New Room, Bristol.
PLP/28/14/11–14 Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/11 Copy letter from Chester enclosing money raised for the foreign missions. Coke hopes that in the future mission expenditure will not exceed income.
2 Apr. 1806

PLP/28/14/12 Copy letter from Anglesey, North Wales, re Coke’s own expenditure and that of his wife on foreign missions, including £50 towards the erection of a chapel and dwelling house in Mounts Bay, Jamaica.
Reference is made to the loan made by Coke thirteen years before to the Society in Jamaica for the liberation of a slave. Mr Scoby has recently used some of the money to pay the passage of Mr Gilgrass from Dominica to Jamaica, and Coke would now like the Committee to repay the sum involved.
In his next letter Coke will give details of his Welsh visit.
25 Apr. 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/14/13 Copy letter from Holyhead, Anglesey, asking the Committee not to reprove Mr Gilgrass in the West Indies lest his morale be affected.
Coke and his wife are about to sail for Ireland following the improvement in her health.
12 May 1806

PLP/28/14/14 Copy of PLP/28/14/13.

PLP/28/14/15 Copy letter from Holyhead, Anglesey, to an unnamed female correspondent [Mrs Owen of Anglesey], apologizing for Coke’s lack of attention during her recent visit due to his preoccupation with his Bible Commentary.
12 May 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/16 Copy of PLP/28/14/15.

PLP/28/14/17 From Coke and Adam Clarke on behalf of the Leeds Conference to Joseph Butterworth Senior,
in London, thanking him for his gift of a copy of the report of the British and Foreign Bible Society.
4 Aug. 1806

PLP/28/14/18 From Coke and Adam Clarke on behalf of the Leeds Conference to the Committee of Privileges, thanking them for their work in supporting Lord’s Day observance with regard to militia training.
5 Aug. 1806

PLP/28/14/19 Copy letter from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, to Adam Clarke asking for the money due to the Irish Conference from the Preachers’ Fund.
29 Aug. 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/20 From Stroud, Gloucestershire, to Jabez Bunting in Manchester asking for details of Mr Constable who has recently been appointed to the mission on St Christopher, despite the fact that Coke knows nothing about him. Bunting should also write to Constable, asking him to meet Coke in Bristol. Coke is en route from Wakefield, Yorkshire, to Bath, Somerset, on family business.
31 Aug. 1806

PLP/28/14/21–23 Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/21 Copy letter asking the Committee to write to Mr Brackenbury granting his request. In a postscript Coke states his intention of sending his Spiritual Account in a fortnight, and asks that he be allowed to have [William] Haigh for the Somerset Mission.
19 Aug. 1806

PLP/28/14/22 Copy letter from Stroud, Gloucestershire, asking where Mr Constable is, in order that Coke can meet him in Bristol before his departure with Mr Dace for St Christopher. Coke hopes that the Committee will allow [William] Haigh of the Dursley Circuit, Gloucestershire, to undertake the important Somerset Mission.
1 Sept. 1806
PLP/28/14/23  Copy letter from Old Down, Somerset, enclosing a list of mission subscribers in Wakefield, Yorkshire.
   He asks his correspondent [Revd Lomas] to send a copy of Coke's *Bible Commentary* to his brother in Manchester.
   Coke wishes to send £40 to Mr Rankin 'on account of Williams's property in America, due by Mr Asbury'.
   The completion of the *Commentary* is Coke's main priority, but once it is completed he would like to 'do something considerable for the Missions in Bristol'.
8 Sept. 1806

PLP/28/14/24  From Old Down, Somerset, to Jabez Bunting in Manchester asking for a copy of the reserved list [of preachers].
   He asks Bunting to remind Mr Griffith of his promise to send an account of the success of the Holderness Mission, Yorkshire.
10 Sept. 1806

PLP/28/14/25  Copy of PLP/28/14/24.

PLP/28/14/26  Copy letter from Bristol to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice, *re* the settlement of Mr Dace's travelling expenses before his departure for the West Indies with Mr Knowlan. Coke wishes that Mr Constable would arrive.
   He asks if George Smith is dead.
   He urges the Committee to make a choice from the reserved list for the Taunton Mission, Somerset.
   In a postscript Coke expresses his approval of Dace's preaching abilities.
15 Sept. 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/14/27  Copy letter from Bristol to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice, *re* replacing George Smith, who has died, with Mr Tranter.
   Coke again asks for someone for the Taunton Mission, Somerset.
   Mr Moulton has written to inform Coke that Mr Constable is en route to Bristol.
Coke asks for the cause of the Jersey persecution. In a postscript he says that the man he has previously referred to as William Haigh of the Dursley Circuit, Gloucestershire, is in fact called William Sleigh.

15 Sept. 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Copy letter from Bristol to Viscount Erskine, Lord High Chancellor, asking for his help in stopping the persecution of the Jersey Methodists because of their refusal to undergo militia training on Sundays. This has led to the banishment from the island of their preacher, Mr Knowles.

Coke describes in detail the earlier outbreak of persecution [1798], and the eventual intervention on behalf of the Methodists by the Privy Council. Coke emphasizes the loyalty of the Methodist Connexion, as evidenced by their activities during the rebellion in Ireland [1798], with specific reference to the fighting in Dublin, Killybeggan and Monestrevan, and also by their defence of the West Indian island of Tortola.

24 Sept. 1806

Copy letter from Old Down, Somerset, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice, asking them to authorize Mr Collier to draw on mission funds, and that Mr Reece should be appointed to Eaton. He complains that the Committee does not write to him on such matters.

Coke has written a cautious letter to the Governor of Jersey, and in a postscript promises to keep the Committee informed of any developments.

1 Oct. 1806
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

From Old Down, Somerset, to the Revd [Francis] Collier in Helston, Cornwall, re Coke’s request to the Missionary Committee that Collier be allowed to draw £30 from the Mission Fund.

1 Oct. 1806

Copy of PLP/28/14/30.

Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.
Copy letter from Bath, Somerset, promising to send an unspecified report. He intends leaving for Cornwall the following day.
Mr Constable may sail for the West Indies with Mr Wooley (Coke suggests Grenada). Mr Dace should go to St Christopher.
He believes that something should be done for [William] Sturgeon's widow.
Mrs Coke is afflicted with rheumatism in her leg, but her throat is quite well.
5 Oct. 1806

Copy letter from Bath, Somerset, re Mr Constable's background. He will meet Coke in Liverpool or Birmingham in the spring with Mr Wooley. The Society in Grenada must get by without him for the time being.
Sister Sturgeon has a claim of twenty-four guineas per annum on the preachers' fund.
Reference is made to foreign mission financial matters, including donations for chapels at Morant Bay, Jamaica, and Prince Rupert's Bay, Dominica.
Coke recommends John Palmer and Joseph Lisk for the Taunton, Lewes and Brighthelmstone Missions respectively.
6 Oct. 1806

Copy letter from Cullompton, Devon, enclosing the Spiritual Account, with the exception of a page describing the Welsh Mission. All the extracts of letters have also been sent, and Coke has a parcel of missionary letters for Joseph Benson.
He says that some of the subscribers, especially Mr Middleton of London, thought that the last report was too short.
12 Oct. 1806

Copy letter from Cullompton, Devon, detailing Mr Burgess's complaint that the list of subscriptions raised from the Redruth circuit, Cornwall, as reproduced in the last report, was misrepresented, and had therefore to be concealed from the subscribers.
Mr Lisk is unable to join the Lewes and Brighthelmstone Mission, and Coke recommends
Richard Moody of the Shepton Mallet Circuit, as a replacement. Coke describes his late arrival with Mrs Coke in Taunton, Somerset, before going on the same night to Cullompton where he has opened a new chapel. Reference is made in detail to Coke’s loan of £100 in 1793 to the Jamaica Society, and the complex issues that had resulted. Mrs Coke is ‘leavening the land with practical tracts’.

13 Oct. 1806

PLP/28/14/36 Copy letter from Cullompton, Devon, asking for contributions to the Home Mission report.

17 Oct. 1806

PLP/28/14/37 Manuscript copy letter in Coke’s hand, from Old Down, Somerset, to Lord Spencer, Secretary of State, re the expulsion of Mr Knowles from Jersey, and the suggestion that there were reasons for his exile, in addition to the refusal of the Methodists to carry out military training on Sundays. Coke requests that the obstacles to Mr Knowles’s return be stated.

19 Oct. 1806

This letter is crossed out and is written on the reverse of the following letter.

From Old Down, Somerset, to an unnamed high official [General Don], stating that the Methodists would rather die than give up their principles with regard to the Jersey Militia affair. The previous persecutions on the island [1798] are described in detail.

n.d. [19 Oct. 1806]
Related materials: PLP/28/14/38.

PLP/28/14/38 From Exeter, Devon, to Joseph Butterworth, bookseller of London, enclosing PLP/28/14/37.

19 Oct. 1806

PLP/28/14/39 Copies of PLP/28/14/37–38

PLP/28/14/40–46 Letters to the Missionary Committee.

Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.
Copy letter from Exeter, Devon, asking for confirmation that the Committee has received the Spiritual Account in his Missionary Report. Coke asks for details of the money allowed to the Irish Conference out of the funds of justice and mercy. He encloses an incomplete list of mission subscribers in parts of Devon and Somerset. It has been decided that Constable will not go to the West Indies after all, but that Mr Wooley should be accepted.

19 Oct. 1806

Copy letter from Bodmin, Cornwall, re money owed to the Irish Conference from the Preachers' Funds of Mercy and Justice. The Irish book stewards have written asking for the prints for their magazine, and Coke asks the Committee to agree to this request.

3 Nov. 1806

Copy letter from Bodmin, Cornwall, re the appointment of either Mr Constable or Mr Moody to the Lewes and Brighthelmstone Mission, and the decision to send Mr Wooley to the West Indies. Details of the printing of the Bible Commentary are discussed. Coke encloses the Camelford subscription list, and complains that the Anglican clergy have poisoned the minds of potential subscribers.

3 Nov. 1806

Copy letter from Penzance, Cornwall, re financial questions arising from the loan of money made by Coke to the Jamaica Society in 1793. Coke intends resting in Helston, Cornwall, for two weeks, preaching just five times a week. Mr Highfield has written to Coke, urging the establishment of a Home Mission in Warminster, Wiltshire.

3 Dec. 1806

On the reverse of this document is the following copy letter.

From Helston, Cornwall, enclosing a cheque for £200, and in a postscript giving further details about his loan to the Jamaica Society.
Coke envisages that his plan for an East Indian Mission will be accepted by the Committee.
14 Dec. 1806

PLP/28/14/44 Copy letter from Helston, Cornwall, re mission subscriptions both home and foreign. Coke urges the acceptance of Mr Highfield’s proposed Warminster Mission and that the appointment be filled either by William Sleigh or Messrs Lisk or Moody. He asks the committee to read Dr Buchanan’s account of the state of religion in the East Indies. Coke has met with Colonel [William] Sandys and they agree that the East India Company would not place any obstacles in the path of a mission. Coke believes such an undertaking should commence among the Greek Christians of the Malabar coast.
18 Dec. 1806

PLP/28/14/45 Copy letter from Helston, Cornwall, re the approaches made by Coke and Joseph Benson to the East India Company and the government, advocating the establishment of a Methodist presence in India. This had followed the visit to the Sheffield Conference by Colonel Sandys. The conclusion is that the East India Company would refuse permission, but would not ‘persecute us if we established a Mission’. Coke believes that such a venture should commence on the Malabar coast among the estimated 150,000 Greek Christians, and he explains in detail the reasons why. Colonel Sandys has promised financial help, and Coke and his wife will give £50 per annum, and more if necessary. Coke suggests Mr Fish, Andrew Hamilton and Mr Murdoch as being suitable for this work.
18 Dec. 1806

PLP/28/14/46 Copy letter from Helston, Cornwall, enclosing the Helston subscription list. Coke declares, that he is determined, for reasons he will not disclose, never to lend money again, except to the missionary fund. Travancore in India, where Coke and Sandys envisage sending a mission, is not far from where Mr Swartz made 30,000 converts.
In a postscript Coke mentions receipt of a letter sent by Mr Quetville [de Quetteville], in which he describes the distress suffered in France by William Mahy. Coke has written back telling him to draw £50 from the Committee.

24 Dec. 1806

PLP/28/15/-  Letters, 1807

PLP/28/15/1  Editorial notes by an unnamed authority, comparing the letter sent to the New York Conference on 6 January 1806, with that to the Baltimore Conference on 6 January 1807.

n.d.

PLP/28/15/2  Copy letter from Taunton, Somerset, to the Baltimore Conference (via Alexander McCaine), expanding on his letter to them written on 6 January 1807.

Coke refers to his consecration by John Wesley as a bishop for work in America, and the importance which he continues to attach to this appointment, considering the size of the country and its future greatness.

He feels unworthy to preach, but will carry out his duty to God by moving to America 'if you consider my living and laboring among you, will help preserve this union'. His wife is capable of travelling 5,000 miles a year, and Coke himself 10,000. He will not, however, give up his right to 'give my judgement in Episcopal matters'.

Coke asks for a reply, once the matter is considered.

2 Feb. 1807


PLP/28/15/3  Copy of PLP/28/15/2.

PLP/28/15/4  From Salt Hill to an unnamed correspondent [Revd Richard Gower] informing him of his availability to preach in High Wickham on the following Sunday.

Mrs Coke has been dangerously ill and was forced to leave London for a more 'airy place'. She is now much better, and will leave for Ireland
with Coke, travelling as fast as her health will permit.
27 Mar. 1807

PLP/28/15/5–10 Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference MMS Home C box 1.

PLP/28/15/5 Copy letter from Carlisle, Cumberland, agreeing to the removal of Mr Bradnock from Jamaica, but suggesting that he go to Barbados for one or two years instead. The preacher appointed for Barbados can assist Mr Evans in Tortola.
12 Sept. 1807

PLP/28/15/6 Copy letter from Sunderland, Co. Durham, re the disappointing results obtained from the house to house collections in Preston, Lancaster, Penrith and Kendal. In Carlisle a misunderstanding arose with the lady of the house, where Coke and his wife were staying, and this prevented any collections from taking place. Further obstacles have been encountered in Hexham and Sunderland.
Coke suggests Mr Jeffreys of Hexham for the Gibraltar Mission, and he commends to the Committee, Mr Coates, the presiding Elder of Canada, who is visiting England.
If financial difficulties are being experienced, then Coke and his wife are willing to lend several hundred pounds.
23 Sept. 1807

PLP/28/15/7 Copy letter from Sunderland, Co. Durham, recommending that Mr Bradnock be sent to Barbados for the sake of his health, and that the Committee should wait for more complete information from the new missionaries in Jamaica, before deciding on his guilt.
Gilgrass and Knowlan should remain in Jamaica until Johnston and Wiggins arrive.
3 Oct. 1807

PLP/28/15/8 Copy letter from Newcastle, Northumberland, re the donation of one hundred guineas to the missions by Mr W. Blackett Trevelyon of Nether Witton in the Hexham Circuit, Northumberland.
19 Oct. 1807
Copy letter from Newcastle, Northumberland, containing details of a donation of £105 for the missions, with other sundry financial matters.
22 Oct. 1807

Copy letter from Durham enclosing £105 for the missions, with a list of Durham and Sunderland subscribers. Coke asks that Moody be sent to the South Devon Mission.
12 Nov. 1807

Copy letter from Durham to the General American Conference of 1808, explaining in detail the reasons for his absence from the Conference, and emphasizing his commitment to the American Church, despite his responsibilities in Europe. Coke apologizes for his circular letter, which he admits was irregular, but was prompted only by a desire to resolve the situation. He is prepared with his wife to move to the United States, if the Conference wishes it, but only if he is allowed to exercise his powers as a bishop of the Church.
16 Nov. 1807

Copy of PLP/28/15/11.

Copy letter from Darlington, Co. Durham, to the Missionary Committee for Finance and Advice enclosing £105 for the missions with a list of subscribers in Durham. He is pleased that a missionary has been found for Gibraltar, and he strongly recommends Jonathan Kershaw of the Lancaster Circuit, and Mr Abbott for the West Indies and the Devon Missions respectively. Some anti-Methodist New Connexion sentiments are expressed.
18 Nov. 1807

Copy letter from Stockton, Co. Durham, to Jonathan Crowther re the difficulties experienced by the York Society with regard to their new
premises. He discusses at length the efforts made by the enemies of the Connexion to thwart the Church's progress.
Coke intends travelling to Whitby, Hull and York.
19 Nov. 1807
Original at Emory University.

PLP/28/15/17-20 Copies of PLP/28/15/16

PLP/28/15/21-22 Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/15/21 Copy letter from Scarborough, Yorkshire, asking the Committee to send Mr Bradnock to join Mr Marsden in Bermuda for the sake of his health. If this is not done quickly, then he may sail for England.
2 Dec. 1807

PLP/28/15/22 Copy letter from Scarborough, Yorkshire, informing the Committee of his decision not to go to Hull, lest the damp affect his wife's health. He expects to arrive in York on the 12th.
The list of Whitby subscribers is enclosed.
Coke intends writing a circular letter to the Circuit Superintendents, asking them to send any money owed to him from sales of the *Bible Commentary*, so that he can pay off a final printing bill of £2,257 He mentions that the profits from the *Commentary* have largely covered his travelling expenses, although not to the extent that the Committee seem to believe. The index is almost completed.
Two volumes of *The history of the West Indies*, are almost ready to print, and Coke is confident that the work will be well received.
5 Dec. 1807

PLP/28/16/- Letters, 1808

PLP/28/16/1 Copy letter from Leeds, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee enclosing £45 for the missions, and re sundry other financial matters.
The index to the *Bible Commentary* is ready for printing.
The first volume of Coke's *History of the West Indies* is almost finished, and he intends to complete it during his visit to Harrogate, Yorkshire. He is confident that two of the three volumes will be ready by the time of the Conference.

7 Jan. 1808
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/16/2 Circular printed letter to the Revd John Chettle in Burton-on-Trent, Leicestershire, asking that he send money owed to Coke from sales of the *Bible Commentary*, and that Chettle should procure subscribers to the *History of the West Indies*. Coke adds a personal note of regard at the bottom of the letter.

22 Jan. 1808

PLP/28/16/3 Copy of PLP/28/16/2.

PLP/28/16/4 Copy letter from Leeds, Yorkshire, to the General American Conference *re* the disclosure of the contents of Coke's controversial letter of 24 April 1791 to Bishop William White of the American Episcopal Church [PLP/28/7/13]. Coke states that at that time he had believed that the best interests of the Church would be served by union with the Episcopalians. He cites the dispute with James O'Kelly and the lack of a regular General Conference as evidence of the threat of division within the Connexion. He now acknowledges that he was wrong. He refutes the charge that he had exhibited 'duplicity' in his ordination of Francis Asbury, and declares that he had informed Asbury of his approach to the Episcopalians as soon as was possible.

29 Jan. 1808

PLP/28/16/5 Copy of PLP/28/16/4.

PLP/28/16/6 Copy letter from Leeds, Yorkshire, to Francis Asbury in the United States, *re* the disclosure of the contents of Coke's letter of 24 April 1791 to Bishop William White [PLP/28/7/13].
He denies that he had applied to the Convention for reconsecration, or that Coke and Asbury would have had to give up their 'Episcopal Ordination'. Nothing would have been done without Asbury's consent.

Coke asks that Asbury prevent Coke's character from being attacked at the General Conference.

Work in Britain is proceeding well, despite the demands of the war against France.

3 Feb. 1808

PLP/28/16/7 Copy letter from Harrogate, Yorkshire, to Robert Carr Brackenbury at Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, thanking him for his gift of £20 towards the missions, and his subscription to Coke's *History of the West Indies*, the first volume of which he hopes to complete shortly.

Coke is confident that the 'awful times' in which they are living herald the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The persecution of the Society in Jamaica is described, including the imprisonment of Mr Gilgrass, and the recent death from fever of Mr Firth and his wife. Mr Knowlan's health is also poor. Coke has received his copies of Miss Ward's poems.

7 Feb. 1808
Original deposited as part of the Dodsworth Bequest, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

PLP/28/16/8 Copy letter from Harrogate, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice expressing concern about the persecution in Jamaica.

10 Feb. 1808
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/16/9 Copy letter from London to Ezekiel Cooper in the United States referring to the Jamaica persecution.

He declares his willingness to move permanently to the United States, if he is allowed to exercise 'a superintending influence', and he defends himself from charges arising from the disclosure of his attempts in 1791 to unify the Methodist and Episcopalian Churches.
In a postscript Coke states that he will send copies of his New Testament *Commentary*, once the tension between Britain and the United States has subsided.

1 Mar. 1808
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/16/10  From 13 Tindale Place, Islington, to Thomas Allan, solicitor of Frederick Court, Old Jewry, London, enclosing a transcript of George Rose's letter to Coke.
Rose intends to raise the Jamaica persecution with Lord Bathurst, the President of the Committee for Trade. Rose will then brief Coke on the Government's position.

22 Apr. 1808

PLP/28/16/11  Copy of PLP/28/16/10.

PLP/28/16/12  From near Bath, Somerset, to Thomas Allan, solicitor of Frederick Court, Old Jewry, London, enquiring if the 'persecuting Jamaica law has arrived'.

13 Aug. 1808

PLP/28/16/13  Copy letter from Chepstow, Monmouthshire, to Ezekiel Cooper in the United States, re the decision taken by the General Conference limiting Coke's future involvement with the American Church. He thanks Cooper for defending Coke during the debate, and expresses his pleasure that [William] McKendrie was appointed as a bishop.
The trade embargo prevents Coke from sending copies of his New Testament *Commentary*.

8 Sept. 1808
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

PLP/28/16/14–19 Letters to the Missionary Committee.
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/16/14  Copy letter from Swansea, Glamorgan, re the administrative confusion that had arisen as a result of the appointment of Mr McKay as an Erse-speaking missionary for the Inverness circuit. Coke says that the Irish Conference can probably be persuaded to release Mr McQuige, for work in the Erse Mission.
The Spiritual Account will soon be ready for printing.
20 Sept. 1808

PLP/28/16/15

Copy letter from Lanon, [?Llanon, Carmarthen­shire], asking for the Committee’s requirements with regard to the Spiritual Account. Mr Daniel of the Wiltshire Mission, has asked that £10 be allowed out of the mission funds to support a second missionary. Coke urges that the Committee approve the request.
22 Sept. 1808

PLP/28/16/16

Copy letter from Lanon [?Llanon, Carmarthen­shire], asking for guidance on the drawing up of the Spiritual Account. Mail should be forwarded to Carmarthen, together with a copy of Coke’s sermons on the ministry and his funeral sermon on the death of John Wesley. A draft advertisement is enclosed for insertion in the Methodist magazines, advertising the appendix to Coke’s Commentary on the Book of Revelation.
22 Sept. 1808

PLP/28/16/17

Copy letter from Carmarthen enquiring that his letters have arrived safely.
25 Sept. 1808

PLP/28/16/18

Copy letter from Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, enclosing a transcript of the following letter: To Mr Smith re the circumstances surrounding Mr Trevelyan’s donation of 100 guineas for the missions made during Coke’s visit to Newcastle. Mr [Blackett] Trevelyan was at that time Deputy Lieutenant of Northumberland.
18 Oct. 1808

The following copy letter is also attached: To Mr Blanshard of the Missionary Committee asking that the £400, which Coke had lent the Conference, be transferred into the Mission Fund. Coke hopes to recover his money through subscriptions. Coke’s plans to translate his Bible Commentary into Welsh are described, and he is confident of a good demand.
Reference is made to Mr Gilgrass, at present in the United States en route to England. The island of St Christopher in the West Indies needs three missionaries. The Committee should send the enclosed letter to Mr Turton appointing him to Bermuda. Turton had started the missions on St Bartholomew and in the Bahamas, but his health is now suffering. Coke is pleased that Mr Daniel’s request has been approved, and he asks if anything can be done for Mr Pindar. Mrs Coke has now recovered from her toothache.

n.d. [Oct. 1808]
Related materials: PLP/28/14/15 and PLP/28/14/19.

PLP/28/16/19 Copy letter from Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, recommending that Mr Griffith be appointed local preacher to assist Mr Pindar.
19 Oct. 1808
Related materials: PLP/28/16/18.

PLP/28/16/20 Copy letter from Tenby, Pembrokeshire, to [William] McKendrie in the United States expressing his pleasure at McKendrie’s appointment as a bishop.
5 Oct. 1808
Publication record: Robert Paine, The life and times of Bishop McKendrie, i (1874), 203ff.

PLP/28/16/21 Copy letter from Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, to the Missionary Committee for Finance and Advice regretting that he can do nothing for [Isaac] Bradnock, except recommend him to the Committee. Coke intends writing for copies of the Consolidated Slave Act. He has discussed with Mr Lackington in Taunton, Somerset, the problems arising from the new chapel in the town. Coke is confident that the dispute can be resolved if the President [of the Conference] is willing to open the chapel. He urges the Committee to act as ‘the Kilhamites lay in wait for Lackington on all hands’.
3 Nov. 1808
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/16/22 Copy letter from Carnarvon, Carnarvonshire, to the Missionary Committee for Finance and
Advice asking for money to be paid into the mission funds from the proceeds of the sale of Coke’s books. He regrets that there has been a difference of opinion between himself and the Committee.
15 Nov. 1808
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/17/- Letters, 1809

PLP/28/17/1 Copy letter from Wakefield, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice re Coke’s rejection of four candidates for the foreign missions field. He emphasizes that he is willing to support financially the three successful applicants.
3 Jan. 1809
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/17/2 Copy letter from 109 Great Russell Street, London, to Lord Bathurst detailing the legal opinion of Mr Stephen of Sergeants Inn with regard to the Jamaica persecution, citing the Consolidated Slave Acts of 1792 and 1801. He acknowledges his appointment to see Lord Bathurst on the following Monday.
16 Mar. 1809
Original at Duke University.
Written on the same sheet is the following letter:
Copy letter to William Smith M.P., re the most effective way of putting pressure on the Government to halt the Jamaica persecution, with particular reference to concerted action by the Church of England and the Dissenting interest.
n.d. [Mar. 1809]

PLP/28/17/3 Copy letter from London to A. Paris, printer of Cook’s Court, informing him of the decision by the King to repeal the persecuting law passed in Jamaica. Coke asks that all the congregations be informed of ‘this fresh instance of the liberal and tolerating spirit of our Government’. Coke is about to leave for Ireland.
28 Apr. 1809


PLP/28/17/7–9 Letters to the Missionary Committee. Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/17/7 Copy letter from Lakefield, near Belfast, asking that Mr Holroyd be appointed to Trinidad, and another missionary (Samuel Wooley is suggested), to Santa Cruz, where Coke himself had preached twenty years before, only to have his work thwarted by the Danish Government. Dr Robinson, a surgeon formerly of Antigua, but now of Trinidad, has promised to be 'our friend' on the island. Since the British capture of Trinidad hundreds of negroes have been moved there and are now without instruction. With the permission of the Irish Conference, Coke has written to the six preachers received on trial, enquiring about their availability for the foreign mission field. Coke recommends that John Toland and Mr Turton should be sent to join Messrs Wiggins and Johnston in Jamaica.

28 July 1809 Original deposited as part of the Watkinson Collection, New Room, Bristol.

PLP/28/17/8 Copy of PLP/28/17/7.

PLP/28/17/9 Copy letter from Manchester re [Joseph] Entwisle's recommendation of Mr Charrington for the West Indies. Charrington works in a foundry, and should therefore be accustomed to working in hot temperatures. William Flint of Guernsey in the Channel Islands has offered himself as a preacher or as a home missionary. Coke suggests that he be sent to Ashbourne, Derbyshire, where there is great need of a preacher. Flint has been a soldier and some objections have been voiced about his appointment on these grounds. Coke condemns this opinion as being contrary to Scripture, and he refers to the
rejection by the leaders of the Dublin Society of one preacher because he was an attorney at law. On reflection Flint might be suitable for the West Indian Mission. He requests guidance on the writing of the annual report.

25 Aug. 1809
Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/17/10 Copy letter from Liverpool to Thomas Roberts of Carmarthen re the employment of Mr Daniel to print the Welsh language copies of the Bible Commentary. He asks Roberts to call on Daniel to discuss terms of employment. Coke hopes to be able to visit Roberts next spring.

Samuel Wesley’s Life of Christ [Coke’s revised version] is due to be published shortly, with Coke’s reply to Melville Horn on The witness of the spirit, and a specimen of his History of the Bible.

1 Sept. 1809
Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

PLP/28/17/11 Copy of PLP/28/17/10.


PLP/28/17/12 Copy letter from Liverpool re [Samuel] Wooley’s stay in the United States on the grounds of ill health. If Mr Charrington has passed the Quarterly Meeting, Coke proposes ordaining him in Manchester. He recommends that Mr Johnston be appointed to Prince Rupert’s Bay, Dominica.

25 Sept. 1809

PLP/28/17/13 Copy letter from Liverpool detailing the selection process for foreign missionary work about to be undergone by Myles Dixon and George [or William] Poole of Liverpool. If they are successful Coke asks the Committee’s permission to ordain them.
Coke describes in detail the problems of finding suitable missionaries for the West Indian islands of St Vincent, Trinidad (where Mr Talboy has formed a society of one hundred and twenty), Demerara, Nevis and Barbados. The missions on St Bartholomew and in the Bahamas are also mentioned.
Reference is made to collecting money, and Coke accuses the Committee of lack of zeal.
2 Oct. 1809

Copy letter from Liverpool expressing his satisfaction with Myles Dixon and George Poole of Liverpool [see PLP/28/17/13 & 15]. He hopes that the Committee will consent to their sailing from Liverpool with Mr Charrington for the West Indies.
He has raised £180 in the city for the missions.
3 Oct. 1809

Copy letter from Manchester re the unanimous acceptance by the Liverpool preachers of Poole and Dixon for work in the foreign missions, and their subsequent ordination at the Pitt Street Chapel. Charrington's ordination will take place at Mr Holy's house in Sheffield, Yorkshire.
Mr Bramwell should be informed of their financial needs on the voyage to the Caribbean.
Coke recommends that Poole and Dixon be stationed on St Christopher, and Charrington on Nevis, under the supervision of Charles Hodson. Gilgrass should go to Barbados, and Cockerill to St Vincent.
10 Oct. 1809

Copy letter from Hull, Yorkshire, enclosing a postscript to the Spiritual Account, concerning the request of the Gibraltar Mission for financial assistance in erecting a chapel.
A list of detailed West Indian stations is enclosed with Coke's proposals concerning the work on the islands of St Thomas, Dominica, St Bartholomew and the Bahamas.
Coke is enquiring into the suitability of a man put
forward by the Doncaster Circuit for missionary work.
23 Oct. 1809

PLP/28/17/17 Copy letter from York re the complaint by some mission subscribers that they were given the impression that their donations would benefit the Irish and foreign missions only, and not the home missions. Coke has managed to resolve the situation, and he asks the Committee to take action to prevent future confusion. Candidates for the West Indies Missions have been put forward by the York and Dudley Circuits. Coke makes suggestions re the future stationing of West Indian missionaries, and he warns of the presence of five Calvinist preachers in the region. The Jamaica Mission has two missionaries who are not licenced by a British Court. Coke recommends that they be replaced by two preachers from the Leeward and Windward Islands.
15 Nov. 1809

PLP/28/17/18 Copy letter from Sheffield criticizing the poor judgement displayed by Messrs Johnston and Wiggins of Jamaica in signing a petition denouncing the actions of their predecessors, and in applying to ‘some of our greatest enemies’ for preaching licences. Coke recommends that Messrs Bradnock and Hearnshaw be sent to Jamaica, releasing Johnston for Prince Rupert’s Bay, Dominica and Wiggins for the Virgin Islands.
19 Nov. 1809

PLP/28/17/19 Copy letter from Sheffield, Yorkshire, re Mr Johnston’s actions in Jamaica.
30 Nov. 1809

PLP/28/17/20–21 Copies of PLP/28/17/19
PLP/28/18/1 Copy letter from Wakefield, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice re his examination of the foreign mission candidates – Messrs Dowson and Jewett of the York Circuit and Mr Crashaw of the Sheffield Circuit. He expresses his fears that the Methodists are losing ground in the West Indies to the Calvinists, and he describes in detail their disposition on the islands, and his proposed response. He expects to have raised £2,000 by the time of the Conference.
1 Jan. 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/2 Copy letter from Leeds, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice recommending that Messrs Jewett and Dowson be sent to the West Indies. Attention should be paid to the Nova Scotia Mission, once the demands of the West Indian Missions are satisfied.
3 Jan. 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/3 Copy letter from Bradford, Yorkshire, to an unnamed correspondent in the Wesleyan Bookroom asking for help in selling Coke's Bible Commentary. Reference is made in detail to the commission arrangements.
16 Feb. 1810

PLP/28/18/4 Copy letter from Bingley, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice re finding a missionary for Glasgow. Messrs Jewett, Dowson and Crashaw should go to the West Indies. He asks if there is any danger of persecution at home.
24 Feb. 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/5 Copy letter from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, to the Missionary Committee for Finance and Advice asking for details of the departure port for Dowson and Jewett, with Coke's recommendation as to their station in the West Indies.
8 Apr. 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.
From John Ridgeway of the Annual Committee of the Methodist New Connexion in the Staffordshire Potteries, to Halifax, Yorkshire, re the Lord Chancellor’s decision against the Methodist New Connexion in the Brighouse Chapel case. Ridgeway proposes that similar cases brought by the Wesleyans be postponed until after the Methodist New Connexion Conference, which will certainly propose a liberal settlement of the remaining claims.

18 Apr. 1810

At the bottom of this letter, which was forwarded to the Missionary Committee, Coke has transcribed his reply, refusing to express an opinion and advising that any further communications be addressed to the President of the Conference.

In a postscript Coke refers to the imminent departure of Mr Wood for Newfoundland, and the need to buy him some new clothes, because at the moment he 'is not fit to be seen abroad'.

30 Apr. 1810

Copy of PLP/28/18/6.

Copy letter of introduction from Todmorden, Lancashire, to the West Indian Societies recommending Mr Dowson.

22 Apr. 1810

Original at Drew University.

Copy of PLP/28/18/8.

Letters to the Missionary Committee.

Originals in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Copy letter from near Colne, Lancashire, re the arrangements for Mr Woods's departure for Newfoundland.

Coke has interviewed two candidates from Todmorden, Lancashire for the foreign missions, and recommends that one should go north [Newfoundland or Nova Scotia], and the other to the West Indies.

Coke details the manning requirements for the missions in the Virgin Islands, Bermuda,
Trinidad, Antigua, St Eustatius, and the Bahamas. 
In a postscript Coke asks that something be done for Welsh people living in London.
30 Apr. 1810

PLP/28/18/11 Copy letter from Rochdale, Lancashire, to an unnamed correspondent informing him of his intention to stay in the town for a day longer, as he is assured that he will be able to raise £30 to £50 more for the missions.
8 May 1810
Original sold at auction by Christie's Auctioneers, 6 Nov. 1963.

PLP/28/18/12 Copy letter from Rochdale, Lancashire, to Revd Robert Johnson in London, asking him for advice re sending a man to the Essex Mission. 
Mr Wood can sail for Carbonneau, Newfoundland, from Poole, Dorset, with passage money provided by Mr Kemp.
9 May 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/13 Copy letter from Bolton, Lancashire, asking that warm clothing for the three missionaries in Newfoundland be sent over with Mr Wood. 
He is strongly against sending money to help build chapels in Gibraltar, as 'our home missions are of greater importance . . . than all our other missions put together'.

One of the foreign mission candidates from Todmorden, Lancashire, should go to the West Indies (Trinidad is suggested), and the other to Nova Scotia. Moses Dunn should be sent to Bermuda.

He asks the Committee's permission to arrange the appointment of a suitable person for the Essex Mission, if one can be found.
The collections in Bolton are going well.
21 May 1810

PLP/28/18/14 Copy letter from Manchester recommending that Mr Allen should be appointed for the Essex Mission following his satisfactory interview with the Manchester District Committee. He will need help with his travelling expenses.
Reference is made to 'Lord Sidmouth and all our enemies'.
26 May 1810

PLP/28/18/15 From Failsworth Lodge near Oldham, Lancashire, to the Revd McKittrick in New Mills near Stockport, enclosing the details of his forthcoming visit to the town.
In a postscript he asks McKittrick to order extra copies of Coke's *Reply to Melville Horn*.
31 May 1810

PLP/28/18/16 Copy letter from Stockport, Cheshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice recommending Mr Phoenix for the Essex Mission.
He hopes that the Committee will not allocate money for the building of chapels.
18 June 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/17 Copy letter from Stockport, Cheshire, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice informing them of Mr Phoenix's imminent departure for London paid for by Coke.
He urges the Committee to appoint a young man from the Preston Circuit in Lancashire to the Essex Mission.
In a postscript Coke states that Mr Rutledge will stay in Bermuda.
27 June 1810
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

PLP/28/18/18 Copy letter from near Deptford, Kent, to an unnamed correspondent, asking him to find a family that the Cokes can stay with in Rochester, 'on account of the very great delicacy of Mrs Coke's constitution'.
29 Aug. 1810
Original in the possession of Arnold Rapp, 1939. Copy in MMS archives.

PLP/28/18/19 Copy of PLP/28/18/18.

PLP/28/18/20 Copy letter from near Deptford, Kent, to Robert Carr Brackenbury at Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, apologizing for his delay in answering Brackenbury's letters.
He asks for Brackenbury's opinion of Coke's 'new versification' of Samuel Wesley's *Life of Christ*.
1 Sept. 1810
Original at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

PLP/28/18/21 From Sittingbourne, Kent, to an unnamed correspondent [?Mr Osborne] regretting that Coke has been unable to find the time to call upon him.
Mrs Coke's health has improved.
5 Sept. 1810

PLP/28/18/22 Copy of PLP/28/18/21.

PLP/28/18/23 From Riverhead, Kent, to Robert Carr Brackenbury at Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, asking him to enquire of Mr Averell the reasons why Mr Duncan of Athy in Ireland has not received an appointment to the West Indies.
He promises to send the money owed to Brackenbury as a result of his involvement with Mr Bishop's legacy.
In a postscript Coke states that he has had to lend the missionary funds £100 and that he is prepared to lend more.
Oct. 1810

PLP/28/18/24 Copy of PLP/28/18/23.

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PLP/28/19/- Letters, 1811

PLP/28/19/1 Draft petition to the House of Commons, urging the rejection of Lord Sidmouth's bill amending the Toleration Act.
n.d. [1811]

PLP/28/19/2 Copy letter from London to Robert Carr Brackenbury of Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, expressing the profound grief that he feels at the death of his wife.
He has been in Brecon, Brecknockshire, for his wife's burial and now intends to carry out his fund-raising mission to Cornwall to try to reduce the foreign mission debts which stands at £1,400.
He asks Brackenbury to ensure that after his death his body is buried beside that of his wife.
16 Feb. 1811
Original in the Dodsworth Bequest, Wesley’s Chapel, London.

PLP/28/19/3 Copy letter from London to the Revd Richard Gower, re his distress at his wife's death.
He is busy in London fighting Lord Sidmouth's bill.
18 Apr. 1811

PLP/28/19/4 From London to Miss Knap in Worcester re his distress at his wife's death [quoting extensively from PLP/28/19/3].
He will be glad to help the French prisoners of war held in England.
18 Apr. 1811

PLP/28/19/5 From London, to the Revd Pilter in Colchester, Essex, informing him of his intention to visit Pilter the following Saturday accompanied by Mr and Mrs Holloway.
28 May 1811

PLP/28/19/6 From Yarmouth, Norfolk, to the Revd Charles Atmore in Leeds, Yorkshire, apologizing for his failure to reply earlier.
Coke will send for the three African missionaries to meet him in Sheffield, Yorkshire, before they sail for Sierra Leone in September, and he thanks Atmore for looking after them. He specifies the clothes that they should be provided with and he asks that they write to Robert Carr Brackenbury.
Coke applauds Atmore's school plan, and refers to his own hopes of setting up dwelling houses for retired preachers and widows with a small endowment for each.
He will open the new chapel in Norwich on Tuesday.
17 June 1811

PLP/28/19/7 Copy of PLP/28/19/6.

PLP/28/19/8 Copy letter from Norwich, Norfolk, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice
recommending the appointment of Mr Toase for work among French prisoners of war, assisted by a French-speaking Channel Islander. The work will be financed separately from the rest of the missions.

Coke is certain that William Wilberforce is supporting Lord Sidmouth in the matter of the Toleration Act, and he therefore wants the Committee's opinion on whether or not to trust him with regard to the West Indies.

20 June 1811
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C Box 1.

PLP/28/19/9 Copy letter from Norwich, Norfolk, to the Revd Robert Smith re the mission among French prisoners of war.
20 June 1811
Related materials: PLP/28/19/8.

PLP/28/19/10 Copy letter from Liverpool, to the Revd Charles Atmore recommending that Mr Porter of the Daventry Circuit, Northamptonshire, be employed as a local preacher until his acceptance as a preacher on trial.
9 Dec. 1811

PLP/28/19/11 Copy letter from Knutsford, Cheshire, to an unnamed female correspondent [Mrs Garside] in Congleton, informing her of Coke's marriage to Miss Ann Loxdale of Liverpool. The ceremony had taken place that morning in Trinity Church, Liverpool. He asks if they can stay with her during their visit to Congleton the following day.
16 Dec. 1811
Copied from a scrap book which was sold at auction, Oct. 1973.

PLP/28/19/12 Copy letter from Birmingham to the Revd Robert Smith re the Conference's decision to allocate two French-speaking Channel Islanders to assist Mr Toase on his mission to the French prisoners. Mr Olivier has been recommended, and Coke expects him to labour in the prisons in Plymouth, Devon, and on Dartmoor.
Coke has remitted £1,000 to Mr Blanshard for the French Mission.
26 Dec. 1811

Copy letter from Birmingham to the Missionary Committee in answer to their official letter. Coke is pleased that the missions in the West Indies will enjoy the same freedom of action as other dissenters. Reference is made to previous persecutions on Nevis, St Vincent, Antigua and Barbados.

He denies that he ever undertook to pay for the African work out of his own pocket, despite what the Liverpool and Birmingham preachers seem to think. Coke has already in 1811 spent £1,200 more than his annual income, and is having to sell annuities to meet his commitments. He still stands by his pledge to settle £1,000 per annum on the Preachers' Fund, at a time dependent on the terms of his marriage settlement, which has still to be drawn up. Moreover, he emphasizes that for the sake of his wife's comfort, all the loans of money must be repaid.

With regard to the French Mission, Coke intends that Mr Olivier of the Channel Islands should join Mr Toase in his labours among the French prisoners, concentrating on Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, Mill Prison and Dartmoor. No time should be lost, as Mr Brogue of Gosport, Hampshire, is planning to start his own mission there. The Governor of Mill Prison, Captain Pellowe, is reported to be sympathetic. The money will be raised by Coke himself without recourse to the General Fund.

He is making good progress on his report on the West Indian Missions, prepared at the Committee's request, although he objects strongly to being distracted from fund-raising. Moreover the Committee should not require him to write such long replies to their letters.
26 Dec. 1811
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

Copy letter to John Hughes, asking him if he is prepared to join the mission to India. Coke
envisages that six missionaries will be sent, two each for Travancore, Ceylon and Tanjore. A mission was established in Ceylon some years before by the Dutch, but no longer exists, and there are sizeable Christian communities in Travancore and Tanjore. Coke hopes that Hughes will go there with the intention of staying for life. The work will be supported by independent subscription.

1811

**PLP/28/20/- Letters, 1812**

**PLP/28/20/1** Copy letter from Truro, Cornwall, to the Missionary Committee for Finance and Advice recommending the appointment of Mr Olivier to work among the French prisoners in Plymouth, Devon, now that the government has given approval. Coke is preparing a French sermon in anticipation. He is very worried about the state of mission finance – now £4,000 in debt. He has therefore abandoned his literary work to concentrate on raising money. A list of mission subscribers has been left with Mr Blanshard for the press.

Robert Lomas in Leeds, Yorkshire, and eleven preachers in Wiltshire, have been refused preaching licences by the Quarter Sessions.

28 Jan. 1812
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

**PLP/28/20/2** Copy letter from Camborne, Cornwall, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice putting forward detailed proposals for the opening of the missions to French prisoners held in Plymouth, Devon.

15 Feb. 1812
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C box 1.

**PLP/28/20/3** Copy letter from Plymouth Dock, Devon, to Robert Carr Brackenbury at Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, apologizing that pressure of work had prevented him from replying earlier. He will be pleased to stay with Brackenbury as soon as his fund-raising commitments allow.
Mr Olivier preached on Sunday to about 600 French prisoners of war held on board the ship 'Saint Nicholas', and he also visited the hospital ship. First results were not encouraging. The Conference has nominated Coke to prepare a mission to Ceylon. He envisages the initial appointment of four missionaries, three of whom have already been found, although Coke refuses to name them. Financial help has been promised by William Carne of Penzance, [Thomas] Williams of Scorrier House near Redruth, and Colonel Sandys of Helston. The approval of the Prince Regent is necessary, although Coke does not think that this will be a problem.

20 Mar. 1812
Original at Wesley’s Chapel, City Road, London.

Printed circular letter from Bristol to the principal circuits in which Coke gives his reasons for not raising funds in their areas, in accordance with the vote of the Conference. Despite the commitments which have kept him in London [a reference to the Jamaica persecution], Coke has, however, succeeded in raising £1,200 for the General Fund, £200 for the mission among the French prisoners, and between £700 and £800 for the African mission. He has also borrowed on bond a further £1,000 for the General Fund.

21 Apr. 1812
Original copy also in possession of the Baltimore Historical Society.

Copies of PLP/28/20/4

From Farnham, Surrey, to John Dutton of Southport, Lancashire, thanking him for his recommendation of an unnamed young man for missionary work. He describes the selection procedure that must be undergone. Coke pays tribute to his present wife, who is 'the very counterpart of my late dear wife', and is also very useful in the Church.

7 July 1812

Copy of PLP/28/7.
Vote of thanks, signed by Joseph Entwistle and Coke on behalf of the Leeds Conference, to Thomas Allan, solicitor, for his work during the Jamaica persecution.
10 Aug. 1812

Copy letter from Scarborough, Yorkshire, to the Revd Robert Smith informing him of the decision of the Transport Board to admit Methodist preachers to all depots and prison ships.
3 Sept. 1812

Copy letter from Newcastle, Northumberland, asking that Mr Bennett be sent to Antigua. Coke expects to have sent the Committee £3,000 by the end of the year.
3 Nov. 1812
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C Box 1.

Copy letter from South Shields, Co. Durham, to the Missionary Committee of Finance and Advice *re* the raising of funds by the London Missionary Society from among Methodist congregations, thereby diverting money from the Methodist missions. To prevent this Coke suggests starting an annual subscription.
The London Missionary Society is also claiming that it has introduced the Gospel into Canada, despite the fact that the Methodists now have sixteen travelling preachers in that country.
29 Oct. 1812
Original in the archives of the MMS, reference Home C Box 1.

From Ann Coke in South Shields, Co. Durham, to Miss Reynolds in Bridlington, Yorkshire, *re* spiritual matters.
31 Oct. 1812
A note at the bottom of this letter (in the hand of Miss Reynolds), describes the death of Ann Coke, which took place shortly afterwards.

From Darlington, Co. Durham, to either the Revd Samuel Bardsley or the Revd John Armitage in Thirsk, Yorkshire, informing them of his forthcoming visit.
14 Nov. 1812
Copy letter from Manchester to the Revd John Shipman in Barnard Castle, Yorkshire, thanking him for his letter of sympathy following the death of Coke’s wife. He suggests that Shipman sail for the West Indies with the autumn fleet.
8 Feb. 1813
Original at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Copy letter from Leeds, Yorkshire, to the Revd [William] Ault in Congleton, Cheshire, re the proposed mission to Ceylon which Coke hopes Ault will join. Several subscribers have promised to support the venture with £5 per annum for seven years.
Coke has visited Dr Buchanan but only had the opportunity to discuss the West Indies.
18 Feb. 1813

From Keighley, Yorkshire, to the Revd Bogie in Manchester re mission subscriptions.
7 Apr. 1813

From Leeds, Yorkshire, to the Revd Filter in Armley, Yorkshire, re the violent cold that had afflicted Coke during his stay in Colne and Burnley, Lancashire. His health has worsened since his arrival in Yorkshire, and so he is having to rest in Leeds for several days. He will be unable to preach on Easter Monday.
13 Apr. 1813

Copy of PLP/28/21/4.

Copy letter from Samuel Hague's house in Leeds, Yorkshire, to William Wilberforce in London re Coke's personal wish to establish a mission in India, now that his wife is dead and he has handed over many of his duties in the Methodist Church.
He has not received a reply to his letter to Lord Liverpool, offering himself as an Anglican bishop in India. He is not only prepared to be fully reconciled with the Church of England, but is willing to use his private income of £1,200 per annum to cover his travelling expenses to India and to make charitable donations. He enjoys good health, despite his age, and found during his visits to the West Indies that he was suited to living in a hot climate. Moreover he is friendly with several influential people, including Lords Bathurst, Sidmouth and Castlereagh, and asks Wilberforce if he should write to try to obtain their support. He asks Wilberforce to keep this approach secret.

14 Apr. 1813

PLP/28/21/7 Copy of PLP/28/21/6.

PLP/28/21/8 Copy letter from Dumfries, to Joseph Entwisle stating his absolute conviction that he must go to India, alone if necessary, although he believes that after his long service to the Connexion the Conference will not allow this to happen. He should have ten missionaries to go with him, and Coke undertakes to raise the necessary funds. He has been studying Portuguese in preparation.
18 June 1813
Publication record: Joseph Entwisle (junior), Memoir of the Revd Joseph Entwisle (London, 1848), 252.

PLP/28/21/9 Copy of PLP/28/21/8.

PLP/28/21/10 Copy letter from Dublin, to Samuel Drew apologizing for not replying earlier, due to his fund-raising commitments. Coke is now ‘dead to Europe, and alive for India’. He anticipates sailing for Ceylon in January, accompanied if possible by one or two companions.
28 June 1813

PLP/28/21/11 Copy letter from the Conference Room, Liverpool, to Dr Oxley in North Shields, Northumber-
land, asking him to give Coke’s love to the benefactors of ‘our African schools’ among the Quaker community. He will print a progress report as soon as possible.
At least £3,000 needs to be raised for the mission to India before Coke can set sail, and he asks if any of ‘our Shields friends’ can help.
30 July 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/21/12 Copy letter from the Conference Room, Liverpool, to the Revd Thomas Bollinghall in Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire, re Bollinghall’s offer to join the Ceylon mission. The Stationing Committee has approved the appointment, and Coke is certain that the Conference will follow suit.
He wishes to meet Bollinghall in London, where the nine missionaries will start learning Portuguese. He can expect to sail in January.
2 Aug. 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/21/13 Copy letter from Liverpool to the Revd [Thomas] Squance in Liskeard, Cornwall, re Squance’s offer to join the Ceylon mission, quoting extensively from PLP/28/21/12.
7 Aug. 1813
Original in the possession of Revd Lee Cole.

PLP/28/21/14 Copy letter from Liverpool to the Revd George Banwell in Reading, Berkshire, suggesting that he would be a suitable person to act as Superintendent of the Sierra Leone Mission, where Messrs Healey and Hirst have formed a Society, comprising ninety-six members.
If Banwell prefers, Coke would be pleased to recruit him for the Ceylon mission, joining the nine missionaries already appointed by the Conference.
9 Aug. 1813

PLP/28/21/15 Copy of PLP/28/21/14.

PLP/28/21/16 From London, to the Revd [Samuel] Sugden in Stourport, Worcestershire, asking Sugden to obtain his father’s consent to join the Ceylon mission.
31 Aug. 1813
Copy letter from Liverpool to William Harvard in Canterbury, Kent, enclosing the names of the missionaries appointed by the Conference to the Ceylon mission.
Aug. 1813

Copy letter from London to Messrs Morley, Bunting, and Pilter in Leeds, Yorkshire, *re* the meeting of the preachers of several London circuits to discuss ways of preventing foreign mission subscriptions from being used for other purposes.
25 Sept. 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

Copy letter from London to the Revd Jabez Bunting in Leeds, Yorkshire, approving Bunting’s actions on behalf of the missions. The Committee have agreed on the form of a circular letter to be sent to the circuits.
15 Oct. 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

Copy letter from London to the Revd Jabez Bunting in Leeds, Yorkshire, applauding the success of the Yorkshire mission, and stating that Bunting’s plan for the missions has put Coke’s mind at rest.
The Government has given letters of recommendation to the relevant Colonial Governors, and the Directors of the East India Company have proved helpful with regard to the passage arrangements for the Ceylon Mission.
Coke asks Bunting to deny reports that Coke is married.
3 Nov. 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

From London to John Wesley Suter, schoolmaster of Bradford, Yorkshire, giving details of the arrangements for Suter’s passage to Ceylon in the East Indiaman ‘Cabalva’, commanded by Captain Birch.
Suter will travel as Coke’s secretary rather than as
a missionary, and his fare of £200 will be paid for by Coke. Once the mission is established, Coke intends touring India, and then returning to England in about two years. Suter can remain in India or return home as he wishes.
30 Nov. 1813

PLP/28/21/23 Copy of PLP/28/21/22.

PLP/28/21/24 From London to John Wesley Suter in Bradford, Yorkshire, enclosing a transcript of the East India Company order to Captain Jonathan Birch to provide Suter with passage to Ceylon. Suter should send his belongings to the Bush Tavern, Wish Street, Southsea, Hampshire, ready for embarkation.
1 Dec. 1813

PLP/28/21/25 Copy of PLP/28/21/24.

PLP/28/21/26 Copy letter from London to Richard Reece re Coke's intention to take John Wesley Suter to Ceylon as his secretary. Coke will write at once to Suter informing him that the arrangements are suspended.
3 Dec. 1813
Original at Drew University.

PLP/28/21/27 Copy of PLP/28/21/26.

PLP/28/21/28 From Portsmouth, Hampshire, to the Revd Alexander Suter in Bradford, Yorkshire, denying that he had ever promised to take his son [John Wesley Suter], to Ceylon as a missionary. Reference is made to an accusation concerning a football, rendering an unspecified person unsuitable to travel with Coke. Coke will send £140 to John Wesley Suter as compensation.
14 Dec. 1813

PLP/28/21/29 Copy of PLP/28/21/28.

PLP/28/21/30 Copy extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Hampshire, to an unnamed Irish preacher enclosing details of Coke's proposed itinerary, namely Ceylon via Bombay, the Indian mainland,
and probably Java, before returning to England.

26 Dec. 1813
Publication record: Quoted by Andrew Hamilton in a footnote to his sermon ‘The faithful servant receiving his reward’ (Dublin, 1814).

PLP/28/21/31 Copy letter from on board the East Indiaman ‘Cabalva’ to the Revd Jabez Bunting in Leeds, Yorkshire, expressing his delight that Bunting had entered so enthusiastically into ‘the mission business’.
31 Dec. 1813
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/22/- Letters, 1814

PLP/28/22/1-11 Letters written on board the East Indiaman ‘Cabalva’, while on passage to Ceylon.

PLP/28/22/1 Copy letter from off Madeira to the Revd Jabez Bunting in Leeds, Yorkshire, regretting that ‘the soil we have to work upon in our ships is a very barren one’. The missionaries are taking the opportunity afforded by the long voyage to perfect their knowledge of Portuguese.
Upon arrival in southern Africa, Coke will investigate possible openings in the Cape Colony. The Governor of Sierra Leone has written recommending his colony as the area of Africa possessing the greatest potential for missionary work.
Coke’s health and state of mind has improved since his departure from England.
24 Jan. 1814
Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/22/2 Copy letter from on board a warship six degrees south of the Equator, sailing for Brazil to the Conference. Coke urges the Conference to apply for a licence allowing him to preach in mainland India. Application should initially be made to the Directors of the East India Company, using the influence of Charles Grant. Alternatively an approach can be made to the Board of Trade. The licence should be sent either to the Revd Thomas Thomason, the chaplain of the East India Company in Calcutta, and Coke’s ‘spiritual
The Papers of Dr Thomas Coke

son', or to George Udny also of Calcutta, who is a good friend of Dr Buchanan.

Coke sees no reason why the Conference should not licence two missionaries for mainland India. He suggests Mr Slater of the Redruth circuit, Cornwall, and Solomon Whitworth of Penzance.

He expects to be in Calcutta in about a year, from where he intends visiting Malda and Rajamaughl – an area recommended by Charles Grant in his correspondence [as printed in the Arminian Magazine for 1794–95].

24 Feb. 1814


Original in the archives of the MMS.

PLP/28/22/3–4 Copy letters to the Conference and the Missionary Committee respectively, re the appointment of two missionaries for India.

26 Feb. and 13 Apr. 1814

Related materials: PLP/28/22/2.

PLP/28/22/5–6 Copies of PLP/28/22/4.

PLP/28/22/7 Copy notes re the poor health suffered by the Revd Squance both during the voyage and after his arrival in Ceylon.

n.d. [20th century]

PLP/28/22/8 Copy of PLP/28/22/7.

PLP/28/22/9 From twenty-five degrees south of the Equator, not far from the coast of Brazil, to the Conference.

Severe gales off Madeira, in which seven ships of the fleet are feared to have been lost, and long calms experienced close to the Equator have delayed the fleet's expected arrival in Bombay by at least a month, by which time the monsoons will prevent the mission sailing for Ceylon for a further six months.

Coke therefore intends leaving Mr and Mrs Harvard with two of the unmarried missionaries to work in Bombay, and will take the rest to Surat, which is about 180 miles from the coast. When the weather allows, the Harvards with one other person will sail for Ceylon, and the rest of the
party, except for two who will remain in Surat [see below], will go by land to Travancore from where two will go on to Ceylon and one to Java. One will remain in Travancore to work among the 'Syriack Christians'. Coke himself will visit Madras, Calcutta and Rajamaugl before returning home.

Some success has been experienced in working among the East India Company troops on board the 'Cabalva', and the King's troops on board the 'Elphinstone' and 'Lady Melville' where one of the soldiers had been a member of the Dublin Society prior to his enlistment, and as these soldiers will largely be stationed in the Bombay and Surat area, the work there looks promising.

He once more urges the Conference to send out Messrs Slater and Whitworth to Calcutta, leaving by the second India fleet in January. Coke himself will bear the cost.

10 Mar. 1814

Enclosed is a transcript, and detailed typewritten notes concerning the letter's contents by an unnamed authority.

Also enclosed is a copy of the inscription on the memorial, raised in Ceylon in memory of the Revd William Ault, who died 1 April 1815.

1815

PLP/28/22/10 Copy of PLP/28/22/9, with editorial notes written by Dr John Vickers.

PLP/28/22/11 From off the coast of Madagascar to Messrs Bunting, Atmore, Morley and Reece, carried by a warship sailing for the Isle of France, re his request that two missionaries be sent to meet him in Calcutta in May or June 1815. Unless they are appointed, there will be no missionaries for Travancore, Tanjore, Madras, Tranquebar, Calcutta or Rajamaugl.

13 Apr. 1814

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Place-names occurring as part of an address from which Coke was writing are not indexed. Individuals not positively identified in the text are identified, wherever possible, from other sources and spelling of names is standardized. Reference is by the last two elements in the catalogue number only. References to consecutive entries in the catalogue (including copies where these are separately listed) are consolidated (e.g. 15/9-10, not 15/9, 15/10).

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