

Valentine Vickers letters

To Mr Ridding
Sir,

Sept 1st 1802

The estate of Mr Onions situate at Admar if out of lease would be well worth Seventy Pounds a Year and Thirty Years Purchase which amounts to Two Thousand Guineas; as it is, it may not fetch more than Fifteen or Sixteen Hundred Pounds but the Value will every year increase as the Estate wears out of lease.

I and Sir,
Your ob^t Serv^t
Val Vickers Jun^r

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Square Birmingham June 1802

Sir,

Herewith you receive the Particulars and Valuation of your Estates. Amies farm I had surveyed sometime ago on Account of regulating the Poores Rates in Broseley Parish and I have introduced that admeasurement which you will observe is about 2 acres more than yours; I have also sent you a copy of my Map of that Farm in its present state – I have been confined here sometime by Illness but my father who looked over the Estates thinks that Haynes is rather bringing his farm in to Condition again having two Sons grown up who he understands are industrious, and lately he has lug'd a good deal of lime to the farm - I presume the Lime-work C^o are confined to the Tickwood lands, it seems that they commit greater trespass than they need do, as they get the Stone nearest the Surface in the readiest way, the excuse they cannot get it fast enough and they are under the necessity of postponing an opening of the work in a more regular manner till they have more leisure; the Surface of the land is certainly indifferent and the Trespass is no great object considering the advantage you derive from their lease.

I think you will in the Particular find every question and observation replied to except as to the method of keeping the Lime-work Accounts and the propriety of frequent inspections which I must beg leave to trouble you with another Letter upon that matter not having been yet properly attended to.- It is usual for the Proprietor to have access to the Company's Books at all times and for the Accounts to be settled once a quarter. – I apprehend all the stone that has hitherto been got has gone down to the Severn and there been weighed by a machine on the Railway before it has been delivered on the Wharf.; this stone has been to different Ironmasters and others, so that each Wagon must of Course be Booked to whomsoever is to pay the Company for it and in this case there can be no deception, because the parts that are charged to different people should agree with the aggregate that has come down – but if the Lime C^o go to burn the Stone themselves after it has passed the Machine or let the Stone stop on the Wharf for an eventual sale it may be difficult to detect fraud unless the Stone is gotten by the workmen by the ton and on the account it is for the interest of the C^o as well as the workmen to be regular; however as to this matter you shall hear more in due course and I remain

V