

good-offices in favour of Mr. Lyall. You may have many opportunities of mentioning him to many commercial friends, who I have great hopes will be sensible of his merits and will be well inclined to promote them.

“Your father was long intimately acquainted with Sir James Napier, and I have a great desire to be of service to his nephew, so that any return you may be so kind as to make in his behalf I shall consider a great obligation. If anything should be fit to be done through the governor-general, I feel confident that his Lordship would not be ill inclined to serve one in whom I am interested to promote. Sir J. N. was very intimate in friendly terms with Sir J. Macnamara Hayes, M.D., who was a great friend of Lord Maira's. I have not heard from you for a great while, and as I grow very old, long much to hear of your coming home, that I may see you before I am called to another world.

“Believe me, my dear Sir,

“Your faithful old friend,

“THOMAS COUTTS.”

Date probably about 1816-17.

Backed to Archd. Seton, Esq., in Council, Calcutta.

Dr. Rogers tells us that when Mr. John Pinkerton, the Scottish antiquary, asked Mr. Coutts to recommend him as a travelling companion and to forego interest on a bond, the banker coolly received one of the applications, and emphatically refused the other. The following letter, written in his eightieth year, is an illustration of that stern tone which he assumed when addressing those whom he deemed in monetary affairs to be chargeable with imprudence :