

Austhorpe, 29th July 1788.

To Mr. Donkin.

I have received a particular account from Mr. Pickernell of our very disagreeable misfortune, and find it no ways more flattering than I had reason to expect from the contents of your letter. What I most blame myself for is, in not ordering every pier to be secured, not only with the girdle course complete, but with the slopes of rubble stones brought up against it, before another pier was laid on the bed of the river; because, notwithstanding what has happened, had the foundations been secured, and finished off

in

in the manner I had intended and proposed, before winter, I am fully satisfied this disaster would not have happened. As it was, I was willing to push on the work in the prime of the season, and confiding in the natural strength and compactness of the gravel bottom, I could not have supposed so much derangement would have happened in the course of two or three summer freshes. I hope I shall not find matters irretrievable.