

My Lord Duke

I received the Honour of your Letter and I am with great

Placour acquainted your Grace that there are some favourable Circumstances in the  
Case of M<sup>r</sup>. Hamilton Ford who was convicted before me at Exeter of  
forging the Hand Writing of M<sup>r</sup>. Wemyss to a Frank. — It appeared at the  
Trial that the Prisoner was a young Seaman of eighteen years of Age or  
thereabouts, that he was not influenced by any Motive of Profit or Gain to  
himself to commit this Offence, but merely out of Vanity he perornated  
M<sup>r</sup>. Wemyss and gave Franks in his Name in order to introduce himself  
into reputable Families at Plymouth. It was partly his Defense at his  
Trial that being a Stranger he was not apprized of the Severity with which  
this Offence is punished by the Laws of this Country. I believe to be true.  
Tho' this could not be received as a Defense at the Trial, yet I think that it  
in some Degree extenuates the Guilt and therefore ought to mitigate

1703  
M<sup>r</sup>. Hamilton Ford

the Punishment; especially in a case where there appears to be more juvenile Folly and  
Indiscretion than Guilt. If the Punishment had been discretionary, I should have imposed  
a Punishment somewhat less severe than what is fixed by the Law. I have  
the Honour to be your's friend

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

3<sup>d</sup> November 1789.

affirmance by John Heath one of the Quene Justices of the Common Pleas

Banishment out of this Country  
for life

To

His Grace the Duke of Portland