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**DATE: 3/12/1821**

To Tho[ma]s Starr Esq, Auditor, Canterbury. 1828 {sic} Doccombe Manor

Dunsford Dec[ember] 3<sup>rd</sup> 1821

Sir,

I have taken the first moment to answer your letter of Nov[ember] 27<sup>th</sup> and to assure the Dean and Chapter that I am willing to accede to any fair terms in order to arrange the renewal between them and myself.

Unacquainted as I am with the mode in which the Dean and Chapter usually transact business with their other tenants it is not in my power to calculate what would be fair and equitable between us. Is it their wish to grant three lives of my nomination, as Lenaugh {*Leign*} is held instead of the seven years? Do the Dean & Chapter desire me to resign the nearly fourteen years term that I now have in the Manor? Or do they intend to grant a term of twenty one years, renewable every seven years? I presume either way will require, a particular calculation. Perhaps the most simple way will be for the Dean and Chapter to purchase my right or to sell theirs, if they have any Land tax to redeem.

You know that I have a fourteen years term, with power to grant leases on all the Estates (not the woods) at any time during the said term, with widowhoods, and with a right for the tenants to cut frith & stakes for their several farms which requires all the wood. I receive certain chief rents which I pay over to the Dean and Chapter. I also receive the Land tax and pay every farthing, even when I have not been paid by the tenants, which is the case at present.

The Manor Mr White your Surveyor can inform you consists of high poor land and (under such times as we have at present) is scarcely worth cultivating. It is not my wish to depreciate the property. I have said that I will buy or sell or renew on fair terms, but all difficulties must be removed by you as the Landholders. If the Dean & Chapter will sell I now offer you £2500 for their right to the whole Manor Lenaugh included. If they would rather buy, let them say what sum they will give me for my right.

Being advanced in years I cannot expect to see the term of fourteen years ended if we cannot treat for the renewal and having no family it is not an object to me to obtain further right but as a clergyman and having possession I still have no objection to renew as before or in any other way. Wishing the property of the Church to be in the hands of Churchmen, and as long

as I continue the tenant of the Dean & Chapter they shall be treated by me as I should expect was I a member of the Chapter.

The audit ending on the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant it will be impossible for us to communicate more at large, until they shall again assemble unless they give you power to act for them.

I remain, Sir, y[ou]r very ob[edien]t s[ervan]t George Gregory

I should have been at Canterbury this week but for a fit of gout