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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Letters from Wilhelmina Nisbet to Charles Nisbet

**Date:** 1785-1788

**Location:** MC 2001.7, B1, F33-37

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Jan: 19th 80

Dr. Sir

I intended to have wrote to you before now had  
not the high portage laid an Embargo - Mr M. has been  
so good as to give me a reading of your letter to him which  
is the cause of my taking the pen immediately In case I  
should by mistake, be styled among your Mistakes Dr. Honble  
friends - That I may assure you, that whoever those may be, I  
never was among the Number - but had penetration enough  
upon the first reading, to discover the true import of the words  
& I really think it required but a small degree of it to pass a  
true judgment upon them by any person who knows the  
authors Manner, & feelings - I thought the words alluded  
to could never have been construed in any light but in fact,  
Tho' the author had been unknown; but surely none that  
knew the tenor of your Disposition, & your sympathy with  
all in distress could suppose you guilty of such measures - I  
think

it was not prudent to write in that style to such a distance—  
The other particular of your letter to Mr W: I remember  
itth about, the Note about the Ley clift being the only thing I  
had taken notice of & on which I was at no loss for a Com-  
mentary — — — I hope you keep good health — in this severe  
Season, both my L: & I have been ailing — he has shone'd in a  
distress very epidemical of late in Many places — a complaint  
in the bowels attend'd with a flux, — he is now pretty well again  
— a great Mercy — Among many that cannot be numbered —  
No word of the ship our Dr Son David Saile in for Gib: the  
End of Nov? which is Mutter of great anxiety to my mind —  
Dr Estlin only Remaining Son has been very ill, & is still far  
from well — they doused Water in his head — the Worthy man  
my love — I only get your letter yesterd: from Mr W: he  
only got it himself on Sat: as he has been in Ed: — I grieve  
that you should pay 3d for this, but did not wish that you should  
suppose me so ignorant of your Christian Disposition as to mis-  
construe your words when they could bear the meaning that mount

No 211 - In hope Adams - I take the opportunity of  
our return to send this to Ed. -

Lady Leven  
19. Janz. 1785

The Rev.  
Dr Chas. Elwicks  
Montrose

Jan. 19th 85

Dr. Sir

I intended to have wrote to you before now had not the high portage Laid an Embargo. Mr. M. has been so good as to give Me a reading of your letter to him which is the cause of my taking the pen Immediately In case I should by mistake, be classed among your mistaken Rc. Humble friends. that I may assure you, that whoever those may be, I never was among the number. but had penetration enough upon the full reading, to discover the true impact of the words & I really think it required but a small degree of it to put a true judgment upon them by any person who knows the Authors Manner, & feelings. I thought the words attended to could never have been construed in any light but in jest, Tho' the author had been unknown; but surely none that know the harmony of your Dispositions, & your sympathy with all in distress could suppose you guilty of hard measures. I think

[Page Break]

I was not prudent to write in that stile to such a distance. The other particular of your letter to Mr. W. I remember little about, the Note about the [*one word illegible*] being the only thing I heard taken notice of; & on which I was at no loss for a commentary. I hope you keep good health. in this severe season, both my Ld. & I have been ailing. he has shared in a destemper any epidemical of late in many places. a complaint in the bauch attended with a flux; he is now pretty well again. A great mercy. Among many to this family that cannot be numbered. No word of the ship our Dr. son David sailed in for Gib: the End of Nov.r which is matter of great anxiety to my mind. Dr. Ethan the only Remaining Son has been very ill, & is still far from well. they doused Water in his head. the Worthy man may live. I only got your letter yesterd. from Mr. M. he only got it himself on Sat. as he has been Edr. I grudge that you should pay 3d for this, but did not wish that you should suppose me so ignorant of your Christian disposition as to misconstrue your words when they could bear ~~no~~ meaning that meant

[Page Break]

no evil. In haste adieu. I take the opportunity of Our Carrier to send this to Edr.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 85

Reverend & worthy Sir

It was lucky for me thus your  
final departure was sudden, & unexpected the day you left us —  
I had no apprehension it was to be the last meeting — It is always  
very hard upon me to bid adieu to a friend, much more especially  
when I never expect to see them again — you have by this time  
felt enough of this trial, which to me is always affecting — I  
intended writing to you before now, but unwilling to put you to the  
expense of postage waited for some private conveyance, but  
upon hearing accidentally, that you was to be at Dundee on Wed.  
on your way to Greenock — I take <sup>up</sup> the pen to express my  
good wishes for a safe, & every passage of that you may be preserved  
for valuable purposes — I heartily sympathize with Mrs N — if her  
views are not clear, she must suffer deeply — I beg you may write  
to me sometimes — & do not conceal the truth if matters do not answer  
your expectation — I still think you have been turned off this stage

which I do most sincerely regret — My worthy friend Dr. Rush  
d I would be antipodes in your affair — I beg however that you  
will inform him of my constant love, & regard, for the friendly duty  
he performed to the last remains of, Him, who I loved as my own  
life — — I have half wrote several letters to him, & write him many  
in my thoughts, but never could get one accomplished that pleased me,  
My Lord has wrote to the Dr., three, or four times, both before, &  
since hostility ceased, I hope he got some of those, I would not  
for any thing have him suspect any desination of the gratefull  
of the regard due to one who deserved  
song which all this family will ever retain, ~~the~~ Such a friend, in a  
himself to be  
far country — It gives us great pleasure to learn from time to time,  
that he is so happy in his Domestic concerns. — I have desired my  
daughter to put into your keeping a small box directed for Dr.  
Rush, which you will be so good as take care of, & deliver to him.

I write this in a hurry having no time to lose — I shall wish  
you, & family well, in all places, & at all times — being with much  
pleasure, & regret your H: S: W: L:

Lady Seven

March 23 - 85



Chas. H. Webster

The Brew

Sister  
for any &

March 23d 85

Reverend & worthy Sir

It was lucky for me that your final departure was sudden, & unexpected the day you left m; I had no apprehension it was to be the last meeting. It is always very hard upon me to bid adieu to a friend, much more especially when I never expect to see them again. you have by this time felt enough of this trial, which to me is always affecting. I intended writing to you before now, but unwilling to put you to the expense of passage waited for some private conveyance, but upon hearing accidentally, that you was to be at Dundee on Wed. on your way to Greenock, I take ~~upon~~ up the pen to express My good wishes for a safe, & easy passage & that you may be preserved for valuable purposes. I heartily sympathize with Mrs. N, if her veins are not clear, she must suffer deeply. I beg you may write to me sometimes, & do not conceal the truth if matters do not offer your expectation. I still think you have been hurried off this stage

[Page Break]

which I do most sincerely regrete. My Worthy friend Dr. Rush & I would be antipodes in your affairs. I beg however that you will assure him of my constant love, & regard, for the friend by duty He performed to the Last remains of, Him, who I Loved as my own life. I have half wrote several letters to him, & write him many in my thoughts, but never could get one accomplished that pleased me. My Lord has wrote to the Dr., three, or four times, both before, & since hostilitys Coucid [?], I hope he got some of those, I would not for any thing have him suspect any deliniation [?] of the gratefull source which all this family will ever retain, & the regard due to one who showed himself to be such a friend, in a far country. It gives us great pleasure to Learn from time to time, that he is so happy in his domestic concerns. I have defined my daughter to put into your keeping a small box directed for Dr. Rush, which you will be so good as to take care of, & deliver to him.

I write in a hurry having no time to lose. I should wish you, & family well, in all places, & at all times, being with much esteem, & regrete,

Your H. St.

W.L.

Dr. Sir

I am much indebted to you for writing to me so soon after yr arrival, & acquainting me of your safe Landing on the American Shore — you give me a very distinct account of your Voyage — your Sons dangerous illness would distract your fours for one week — tho' I dare say you had many anfull alarms, & your poor Wife would be in great Distress — I dont know how it has been with you as to the article of Heat, but we have seen no such warm Summer for 20 or 30 years — a great deal of Thunder & Lightning on Tuesday the 26 which had been universal, at last we have heard of its Effect E: W: South & North

I rejoice that you found the worthy Doctor in comfortable Circumstances I shall never be Indifferent concerning him, He gained my good opinion in his early days — & has done much to confirm it, I never think of him but with affection, My not writing to him is not a mark of my want of Esteem; but that the Subject which first presents itself to my mind, when I attempt to write to him (which I have done often,) is too tender — He has a feeling heart! — I wish you had told me if the Box directed for

him which followed you to Glasgow with Mr Lake; was arrived safe.  
When you write let me know about his family, &c & also about your  
fellow voyager Mr Thompson, — If he has got any thing in a settled  
way —? poor Petachkin has waited sometime for a ship — in the  
mean Mr Gibson N: Kirk is dead who was Chaplain of Stirling Castle,  
& Mr P- has applied for that small living, if he succeeds it will prevent  
his leaving his poor family — who will be in a very poor way if he is  
obliged to leave them. — Your Glasgow Correspondents will write you about  
a Dow that has been preaching there, & in Ed<sup>n</sup>. — I would gladly hope it  
is the beginning of a more plentiful Harvest. He has published a short  
account of his conversion — which Mr Petachkin will carry if he goes, I  
intend to send this letter by him which makes me write in a hurry as his  
motions are uncertain — it will soon be known if there is hopes of his suc-  
cess — I have the pleasure to inform you that Dr Balgownie has  
got a Son — The Mother making a fine Nurse, & that we expect them  
(God willing) in about a fortnight — This is a very comfortable event — I  
hope you will not forget your friends in your prayers now that you are  
in a

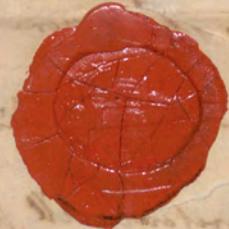
Farr Country - No distance of place can remove us from Him who  
is the Confidence of all the ends of the Earth, & is not far from  
every one of us - O that I felt this truth in such a manner as to have  
the influence upon all my thoughts words & actions -

I have little now to write for instruction, or amusement, which takes up the at-  
tention, & is the foundation of much speculation at present in Colchester for some  
of these ends. - Viz that Mr Murray of Broyleton at the age of (above) 60  
years - has gone of w<sup>t</sup>. a Lady between 30 & 40 - & left his worthy Lad  
to mourn for his absence, & his Sons - She is a very pious good woman  
at present will find use for the Exercise all Christian Virtues - She now  
has the prayers of many good people in her singular trying Situation, he  
has £10,000 a year - & left a letter for the Misses of the Parish, to bid him take  
one & comfort lady Katherine - - for Church News I leave it all to yr  
Brother to communicate, & for State news I don't interfere with it, shall  
be glad to find that the Presb<sup>r</sup>.<sup>m</sup> with you stand their ground - I suppose  
after you are settled you will find time to write to old friends, & will some-  
times find private hands writing in Case you have any pamphlet, or  
Pocel - I thank much of your writing to me so soon - My Lord Jesus

ask his family in best respects to you — If Poterkin go out, I hope  
you will show him some favour — I'm perswaded that he is a very  
sorrius good man — This is all I can give you at present — We are all

Yours affecly Mr. Leeson  
Augt. 85  
J. S.

The Perv.  
Chas. W. Leeson



much as you left us, which is a singular mercy — My best respects to Mrs  
P — She has not yet forgot Montrose — Believe me with much  
Esteem your affec't W.L. Augt. 8th 85

Since writing I have got some hopes that soon Mr. Diterkin will be  
provided — If he is it will be very remarkable

[Scotland, Aug. 8, 1785]

Dr. Sir

I am much indebted to you for writing to me so soon after yr arrival, & acquainting me of your safe Landing on the American shore. you give me a very distinct account of your voyage, your sons dangerous illness would divert your fear for one week, tho' I dare say you had many awfull alarms, & your poor Wife would be in great distress. I don't know how it has been with you as to the article of heat, but we have seen no such warm summer for 20 or 30 years. a great deal of thunder & Lightning on Tuesday the 26 which had been universal, at least we have heard of its effects E. W. South & North

I rejoice that you found the worthy Doctor in Comfortable Circumstance I shall never be Indifferent concerning him, He gained My good opinion in his early days, & has done much to confirm it, I never think of him but with affection, My not writing to him is not a mark of my want of Esteem; but that the Subject which still presents itself to my mind, when I attempt to write to him, (which I have done often,) is too tender. He has a feeling heart! I wish you had told me if the box directed for

[Page Break]

him which followed you to Glasgow with Mr. Lake; was arrived safe.

When you write let Me know about his family, & also about your fellow voyager Mr. Ransom; If he has got any thing in a settled way? poor Peterkin has waited sometime for a ship, & in the mourn Mr Gibson W. Kirk is dead who was Chaplain of Sterling Castle, & Mr. P. has applied for that small living, if he succeeds it will prevent his leaving his poor family, who will be in a very poor way if he is obliged to leave them. Your Glasgow correspondents will write you abt. a Jew that has been preaching there, & in Edn. I would gladly hope it is the beginning of a more plentiful Harvest He has published a short account of his conversion, which Mr. Peterkin will carry if he goes, I intend to send this letter by him which makes me write in a hurry as his motions are uncertain. it will soon be known if there is hopes of his success... I have the pleasure to inform you that Ld. Bolgonie has got a Son. The Mother making a fine Nurse, & that we expect them (God willing) in about a fortnight. This is a very comfortable event. I hope you will not forget your friends in your prayers now that you are in a

[Page Break]

far country. No distance of place can remove us from Him who is the Confidence of all the Ends of the Earth, & is not far from any one of us. O that I felt this truth in such a manner as to have due Influence upon all My thoughts words & actions.

I know little now to write for Distraction, or amusement, what takes up the attention, & is the foundation of much speculation at present is comfortable for none of these ends; Viz that your memory of [*two words illegible*] at the age of (above) 60 year- has gone of wt a Lady between 30 & 40, & left his worthy Lady to mourn for his absence, & his sins. She is a very

pious good w[*page torn*] at present will find use for the Encrease all Christian Virtues. She will have the prayers of many good people in her singular trying Situation, he has £10,000 a year, & left a letter for the Minr. of the Parish, to bid him take care & comfort Lady Katherine. for Church News I have it all to yr Brethren to Communicate, & for State news I don't Interfere with it; Shall be glad to find that the Presbt. with you stand thus governed. I suppose after you are settled you will find time to write to old friends; & will sometimes find private hands coming in case you have any pamphlet, or parcel. I think much of your writing to me soon. My Lord joins

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all his family in best respects to you. If Peterkin go out, I hope you will show him some favor; I'm persuaded that he is a very serious good man. This is all I can give you at present. We are all much as you left us, which is a singular mercy. My best respects to Mrs. N. She has not yet forgot Montrose. Believe me with much Esteem

your H. Sevt.

W.L.

Augt. 8th 85

Since writing I have got some hopes that poor Mr. Peterkin will be provided. If he is it will be very remarkable

M. D. Augt. 25<sup>th</sup> 186.

Just when I was meditating a letter to you  
yours of June 24<sup>th</sup> came to hand, had I been in good health would  
not have been so long of acknowledging your letter without a date w<sup>ch</sup>  
I received about 3 or 4 weeks ago - It filled me with much surprise  
considering it immediate predecessor, & that we had long looked for you  
& daily expected your arrival on the Scotch Coast - I had heard rumours  
but none of them appeared such as could be depended upon - till I had it from  
your own hand - Most willingly your friends were expecting you as the people  
at Mintoze kept the Pl: Vacant till your not coming was almost certain,  
but perhaps you did not know of this - Your friends that wished you to stay  
perhaps wd not mention it, if it was not generally known - I trust that you  
have been directed to what was best of most for promoting their Interest which  
you wish to succeed - Sorry to find your health has again been affected in the  
hot weather, & that your family are suffering by it - Shall be glad to learn  
that you are all better - A other particular concerning them - much obliged to  
you for writing me so particularly concerning the state of religion -

I fear you are prejudiced & therefore do not do all the justice to the  
Methodists that many deserve who go under that designation, — you know  
they were always in two parties — Mr White, Orthodox in every point,  
<sup>Some of</sup>  
& although <sup>Some of</sup> Mr Westlys are not so, yet I am persuaded they have done  
a great deal of good, in reforming the Lives, & manners of them, and  
that Mr Westly has been countenanced in his endeavours by  
his Divine Master — To him, according to his Vision, he has been a faith-  
full Servant for yo years. He is now near go. Still active & vigorous  
& anxiously concerned I truly believe, to do the will of his heavenly  
Father, — Should be glad to learn something more particular concerning the  
Shakers being entirely ignorant about them — I will be much obliged to you  
for writing frequently — I'm sure you will hear much good of Mr White  
& still find some of his Disciples making a good figure — it is always a  
pleasure to me to hear any thing to his praise — You'll have heard perhaps  
before this reaches you, of the great loss that the church & people of god  
have made by the death of the precious Lady Glencarthy — I doubt we  
shall never see her like again — but the subject is too painful — I must  
only give you the text, which you can enlarge upon better than I —  
she

has left only the Secon<sup>d</sup> of an unsign<sup>d</sup> Will, in which she intended  
to leave £5'000 to the Society for propagating their knowledge in  
Scotl<sup>d</sup>, & as much for priors after in Eng<sup>d</sup> - it is not yet ascertained  
whether or not Lady Sothern<sup>d</sup>, & her Husb<sup>d</sup>, will fulfill her Intentions  
but I shd suppose it not to be doubted - there is a good deal more  
for priors after --- As I suppose you get Scotch N: papers to Philadelp: I  
need not write Occurrences, many strange things daily fall out - we have of  
much evil, & little good, May a happy reverse soon to the place - Shall we  
ever see the unhappy separation between Am: & his mother made up again?  
That breach which was, & is, the cause of so many evils, Repaired? I am  
persuaded that both parties w<sup>d</sup> be happier & more affect<sup>t</sup> than ever,  
Alas! pride that ugly sin, stands in the breach even indifference to widen  
it --- O! that Men were wise! - Let me know if it is true that Dr. W<sup>t</sup>.  
Carroll has given<sup>np</sup> the Presidentship & am exceedingly glad to find that Mr. Thom<sup>n</sup>  
is alive & well, we heard that he was dead - As I have an opportunity of  
sending this for 2 Sept - I h<sup>t</sup>ton to conclude - I hope our worthy friend  
Dr. Kraft: & family continue well & happy - I had a kind letter from  
him lately which gave me very great pleasure - And I been well I wd  
have wrote

an affr before now - of have sometimes been on the point of doing it but  
presented - My best respects & wishes ever attend him of all his concerns  
all this family desire to be kindly remembered <sup>to</sup> you & the Worthy Doctor  
I bear arm with Esteemge D<sup>r</sup> Sir, your H<sup>r</sup> Servt W.L.

D<sup>r</sup> Chas. Westlock  
To the care of Dr. Rush  
Physician  
Philadelphia



Date

Shakars

Lady Lovew  
Augt. 1786.

Let me know how Mr. Monroe is doing

M.A. Augt. 25 '86.

Dr. Sir

Just when I was meditating a letter to you, yours of June 24th came to hand, had I been in good health would not have been so long of acknowledging your letter without a date wch. I received about 3 or 4 weeks ago. It filled me with much surprise considering its immediate predecessor, & that we had long looked for you & daily Expected your arrival on the Scotch Coast. I had heard surmises but none often appeared such as could be depended upon, till I had it from your own hand. Most wishfully your friends were expecting you as the people as Montrose kept the Ch. Vacant till your not coming was almost certain, but perhaps you did not know of this. Your friends that wished you to stay perhaps wd. not mention it, & it was not generally known. I trust that you have been directed to what was best, & most for promoting that Interest which you wish to succeed. Sorry to find your health has again been affected in the hot weather, & that your family are suffering by it...shall be glad to learn that you are all better, & other particulars concerning them. much obliged to you for writing me so particularly concerning the state of religion.

[Page Break]

I fear you are prejudiced & therefore do not do all the justice to the Methodists that many observe who go under that designation; you know they were always in two parties- Mr. Whitfd., Orthodox in Every point, & Although some of Mr. Westley's are not so; yet I am persuaded they have done a great deal of good, in reforming the Lives, & manners of thousd, and that Mr. Westley has been countenanced in his indefatigable Labours by his divine Marter. To him, According to his Vision, he has been a faithful Servant for 70 years he is now near 90, Still active & vigorous & anxiously concerned I truly believe, to do the will of his heavenly father; should be glad to learn something more particular concerning the Shakers being entirely ignorant about them. I will be much obliged to you for writing frequently. I'm sure you will hear much good of Mr. Whitfd. & still find some of his Disciples making a good figure, it is always a pleasure for me to hear any thing to his praise. Youll have heard perhaps before this reaches you, of the great loss that the Church & people of God have made by the death of the precious Lady Glenerey. I doubt we shall never see her like again. but the subject is too Copious. I must only give you the text, which you can enlarge upon better than I. She

[Page Break]

has left only the formal of an unsigned Will, in which she intended to leave £5,000 to the society for propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotld, & as much for pious uses in Engld; it is not yet ascertained whether or not Lady Sutherld & her husband will fulfill her intentions but I should suppose it not to be doubted. there is a good deal more for pious uses. As I suppose you get Scotch N. Papers to Philadelphia, I need not write occurrences, many strange things daily fall out. We hear of much evil, & little good, may a happy reverse soon take place. Shall we Ever See the unhappy devision between Am. & her mother made up again? That breach which was, & is, the Cause of So Many Evils, Repaired? I am persuaded that both parties would be happier & more affectt. than ever. Alas! pride that defy Him, stands in the breach ever industrious to

widen it. O! that Men were wise! Let me know if it is time that Dr. Witherspoon has given up the Presidentship &tc &tc I'm glad to find that Mr. Thomn is alive & well, we heard that he was dead. As I have an opportunity of sending this free & safe, I hasten to conclude. I hope our worthy friend Dr. Rush & family continue well & happy. I had a kind letter from him lately which gave me very great pleasure, had I been well I would have wrote

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an answer before now, & have sometimes been on the point of doing it but prevented. My best respects and wishes ever attend him & all his concerns. All this family desire to be kindly remembered to you & the Worthy Doctor I am ever with Esteem Dr. Sir,

your H. Servt.

W.L.

Let Me know how Mr. Munroe is doing.

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir

This I am disturbed with Sore Eyes I have taken  
a large Sheet of paper in case I find wherewithal to cover it, - It is  
with regret that I reflect how long it is since I had yours of Dec<sup>r</sup>.  
25<sup>th</sup> - Not answering it immediately in the season of the delay - for a  
~~variety of reasons more or less pressing~~  
out of my Mind, - I'm sorry that you have no better news to write  
from your quarter either with regard to your own Situation, or the State  
of Religion among you, shall be glad to hear what your great reputation  
has received from the new Constitution lately adopted. When I mentioned  
a possibility of a young Man being fitted (I Surely Intended to say) to  
combate, not comply, with the prejudices of the people, - for in many  
respects indeed, this might be much agt. a Mans character, in all  
Emergencys a steady person is the fitter, as sinfull Compliances are  
always attended with bad Consequences, tho' in other Matter it is often  
necessary, of winning, to use gentle means, - I am very sorry that Dr. R.  
& you are upon bad terms, - I should think it very disagreeable, & a loss to  
both, - It is matter of deep regret to be informed of such a wofull  
change to the worse, as America in general has undergone of late,  
I once looked upon <sup>it</sup> as the most highly favoured corner of the Earth,  
in many respects, but chiefly with regard to religion. - When the Lord  
honoured Mr

Whilf'd to be a leading man among them in many places, religion  
flourished, & increased; - He had no by Vain, or Ends, - the Glory of God,  
& the good of souls were the spring of all his movem't. The war  
did much hurt, turned the people Pds, & forgot <sup>falsely so called</sup> the face of God, & every  
thing but Liberty - & I doubt it has been a false Liberty - very  
different from that of the Chil<sup>d</sup>n of Light . . . . Poor Mr Thompson

~~wives~~ in a very poor situation, It is several months since he  
came to Scotland, he is now in Dundee, - He describes his situation to  
have been most afflicting - <sup>Some of</sup> The people rendered unable to pay his <sup>Step</sup> Stepord  
from Poverty, other from want of will - The money he carried out, having  
left his amity, he bought land with it, of which he could make nothing,  
& was obliged to slip away even without the poor wife - who stand as a  
<sup>I fear</sup> hostage - I hope the people of Dundee mean to serve him in some  
shape or other, he has had a sore time of it, - There is nothing to  
write from this country but what you will get in N: papers, & Maga-  
zines - a great deal about the Sunday Schools, - a reformation of  
Manners which by the blessing of God! I hope will have a good  
effect - The former has already had wonderfull effects in large  
trading Towns especially, both in Scotland & England, - your friends about  
Glasgow do not tell you much about this - I thought Dr. Giffen & you  
had Corresponded; surely Dr. Witherspoon & ~~He~~ Correspond, He  
is always very busy about something, & will be to the last of his faculy  
remain - I beg to be remembered to Dr. W when you see him

I regretted not seeing him when in Scotl. — I'm surprised that you  
say nothing of your own family — I hope your son has got free  
of all impediment in his sight of doing as you would wish him — I find by a  
letter from Mr. Mair that was at Bermuda that he is gone to New York, of this  
Dr N. ad inform you as he writes a short preface to a few Sermons he has pub-  
lished — the price of which by the time it reached me a single Vol. cost 19<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup>  
he had thoughtlessly sent it by post — wherein in a ship it would only be a trifle, if  
any thing — He is a nice good man I am glad to hear —  
where he now is — He married too young which is no very Master — he does not  
mention of he has any Child? — I should be glad to know how he is received or  
if in any settled way — I'm glad he is under the tuition of Dr. Rogers to  
whom he desires me to direct for him — I should be glad to know how

you & family keep your health — have you laid aside all thoughts  
of returning to your Native Land — I sincerely wish you a  
happy — You have imbibed a bad Dox of the Methodist Sociey you went  
abroad — There are good, & bad in all Sects, & parties — yet strange, that one who  
ever knew that highly favoured Saint, Mr. g. W. — Should harbours a doubt  
that the Lord was with him of a truth — & countenanced his labours more  
<sup>other</sup> than any <sup>other</sup> Mans since the apostles days, of at this moment I dare to say,  
that the best people in America, are plants of the precious Seed sown  
in his time, — It breaks me to find you speak lightly of the Methodists  
in genl — The good that some of them have been enabled to do, is most  
amazing! It is no wonder that Satan lay Snares agt them — but my paper  
is now a closed alv. My eyes — I dare not send any pamphlets they are  
so dear — I will try to get this letter send a postscript — I fear at best you  
will think it a poor one — If I know of any person or family, you wished to be  
of I will mention them — Mr. Martin is all well — as are all this family  
prosper & joyful so far as I know — remember us in your prayers — good  
reason have we to say — this the Lord is good & Gracious — My love  
Send

in best respects give mine to Mr Nisbet - How would she  
like to come back to Montrose - with much esteem I am  
Sir your H: Servt W:L.

Aug<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1788

Dr Nisbet

Carlyle College

Aug<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1788  
Dr. Carr's Library

[Scotland, Aug. 1, 1788]

Dr. Sir

Tho' I am distressed with Sore Eyes I have taken a large sheet of paper in case I find wherewithal to cover it. It is with regret that I reflect how long it is since I had yours of Decr. 25th. Not answering it Immediately is the reason of the Delay, for a variety of business makes me neglect many necessary duties which fly out of my mind. I'm sorry that you have no better news to write from your quarter either with regard to your own situation, or the state of religion among you, shall be glad to hear what your great Expectations have received from the new Constitution lately adopted. When I mentioned a possibility of a young man being fitter – (I Surely Intended to say) to combat, not comply, with the prejudices of the people; for in many respects indeed, this might be much agst. a mans character, in all earnestness a steady person is the fittest, as Sinfull compliances are always attended with bad conveyances, Tho' in other matter it is often necessary, & winning to use gentle means. I am very sorry that Dr. R. & you are upon bad terms; I should think it very disagreeable, & a Loss to both. It is matter of deep regret to be informed of such a woefull change to the worse, as America in general has undergone of Late; I once looked upon it as the most highly favoured comer of the Earth in many respects, but chiefly with regard to religion. When the Lord renewed Mr.

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Whitfd. to be a Leading man among them in many places, religion flourished, & increased; He had no bye, an Ends; the Glory of God, & the good of Sorts were the Spring of all his movemt. The war never did much hurt, turned the people Idle, & forgetfull of God, & everything but Liberty, formerly so called, & I doubt it has been Liberty. very Different from that of the Chldn of Light... Poor Mr. Thomsom arrived in a very poor situation, It is several months since he came to retain, he is now in Dundee; He describes his situation to have been most affecting some of the people rendered unable to pay his stipend from Poverty, often from want of will. The money he carried out, having sold his animals, he bought Land with it, of which he could make nothing, & was obliged to step away even without the poor wife- who staid as a hostage I fear. I hope the people of Dundee mean to serve him in some shape or other, he has had a sore time of it. There is nothing to write from this country but what you will get in the N. Papers, & magazines. a great deal about the Sunday Schools; & reformatioins of Mormon which by the blessing of God! I hope will have a good Effect. The former has already had wonderfull Effects in large trading Times, Especially, both in Scotld & England; Your friends about Glasgow could tell you much about this. I thought Dr. Gillan & you corresponded; Surely Dr. Witherspoon & He correspond; He is always very busy about something, & will be to the last if his faculty remains. I beg to be remembered to Dr. W. when you see him

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I regretted not seeing him when in Scotld. Im surprised that you say nothing of your own family. I hope your son has got free of all impediments in his sights & doing as you would wish him. I find by a letter from Mr. Mair that was at Bermuda that he is gone to New York, of this Dr. N., and inform you as he writes a short preface to a few sermons he has published, the price of which

by the time it reached me a single Vol. cost 19sh and 2d he had thought cheaply sent it by post, whereas in a ship it would only be a trifle, if anything. He is a pious good man I am [3 or 4 words illegible] where he now is. He married too young which is no easy matter, he does not maintain if he has any Childn. I should be glad to know how he is received or in any settled way. I'm glad he is under the tuition of Dr. Rogers to whom he desires me to direct for him. I should be glad to know how you & family keep your health. have you laid aside all thoughts of returning to you native Land. I surely wish you are happy. You have Imbibed a bad Idea of the Methodists since you went abroad. There are good, & bad in all sects, & parties; yet strange, that one who ever knows that highly favoured Saint, Mr. G. Wd. should harbour a doubt that the Lord was with him of a truth-, & Countenanced his Labours more than any other man since the Apostles days, & at this moment I dare to say that the best people in America, are plants of the precious seed sown in his time. It hurts me to find you speak lightly of the Methodists in gov't. The good that some of them have been Enabled to do is most amazing! It is no wonder that Satan lay snares agt them. but My paper is near a close & also my eyes. I dare not send any pamphlets they are so dear. I will try to get this better sent a pennyworth, I fear at best you will think it a poor one. If I know any persons, or familys, you wished to hear of I wd mention them. Mr Martins all well, as are all this family present & absent so far as I know. remember us in your prayers good reason have we to say, this the Lord! is good & Gracious. My Lord sends

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his best respects give mine to Mrs Nisbet. How would she like to come back to Montrose. With much esteem I am sir

Your H. Sert.

W.L.

Augt 1st 1788