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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Letter from Charles Nisbet to the Minister of Drumelzier

**Date:** February 24, 1767

**Location:** I-TurnbullM-undated-4

## **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

I had refolved to write you about three Months ago, immediately after our Keturn from your Country; but that like many other good Refolutions , has been hitherto without Effect . I have not however been the les solicitous about your Welfare, as fearer a Sunday has past fine I far you, but I have been considering or enquiring who was to preach at Drummelsier? I was pleased to hear, by the decounts of our Friends, that you were no worfe, & we were greatly surprised to understand by your Friend Mr. Wallaco lately, that you had began to presch in your oven house, in the Time of the Storm. This gave me Uncofinely, the made me imagine you more grown worfe , as your londred looked to like Death bed Repentance . Oray let me know that you are better , natwithfland . ing this threatening Symptom. I that be in Suppense till I hear from you . - I propose you will now be convinced from Experience, that the Operation of Preaching is not to hazardous as you imagined. Tray how does Mr. Olummer, your Brother & Companion in Tribulation ? Does he continue his nightly Engagements with the Devil the Sir David Minray, as formerly? Is 9. Dickton Will employed on the good Work of harrafring to perfecuting his Brothren ! Has the now Lited against him, as yet gone any Longth? - I shall expect a Letter from you foon, containing a great many refreshing Molandums , in answer to these & the like interesting Queries . Mr. Willace writes me that his con will not find Leifase to vifit Carninich this Scafon; but I am conforting myfelf with the Expectation that you will jumply his Place, & that I hall from have voders to befreak your Quarters. I believe I told you that in November last I had befroke you a Tright's Lodging with the Minister of Strathan, where I intend you that make your Stage Schwick this & Glenmuick I expect you will not now pretend to talk of your Fruity . the Villance . & fuch thread bare Excuses . The Condition of an operative & effective Minister, which you have lately retired, must give you quite other Ideas. It is only while a Mour file lotting like a Dignitary, & gets his Charge populied Juccepion of Heighbours. Probationers, Doctors & Needman that he imagines his Legs to be made of Glass, or his there Insformed into a Stone-quarry - Perhaps a few Grains of Severy & Dimmetion of Stipens, made up in a Bother . The Merning falling might be of great the to take off the Colorep. & reflering Motion to your Limbs. Experto wide Roberto. - The Council of Hear here is quite frozen up forme, as well as the Rhine at Coblenty. During the late Frost we made a general Subscription for the Relief of the Over, & collected more than an hundred quineas, a great Part of which is already Diffributed. What surprized me more than the large Subscriptions of some particular Sections, was . that from after the eloting of the Subscription , no left than Jeven Bounds Steeling in Silver was Selivered me by a poor Homan that had lived on Charity for thirty years past .-This poor Homan . The a Cripple, & 63 years of age . had by thirty Management collected the aforefaced Jum to be dis tributed to the poor at her Death, befiles her Grave clothics & Coffin, which the has kept by her for more than ten years past item deven new Plaids of her own Manufacture, which the disposed as follows, two to Mr. withen one to the Spife ropul Minister. & one to your humble dervant . - I mention my being in this Testament , because I am not to my Unovoledge in any other, unless I find a Place in Mo. Cooper's which is not yet made . - This year, to far as it has past. has been very mortal here. We have had a Burial for every Day fince the first of January. I the Mertality is going on at the Jame Rate, loughs, Afthma is & Fevers are the most prevailing Diforders. - I fee by the Papers that Mr. Botton is ~ dead which will be a confiderable Relief to the Robief Presbytery, as they were in Danger of Sividing anent his going to Glasgow, Mr. Baine the his Adherents refusing to look his Relation to Jedburgh . - Fr. Witherform wrote me lately promised me a Bill of Triections in his next, which is not yet arrived. I have observed your two Maxims invide tably ever fince I left you. I hope you will find me more of them with your Conveniency . I Will have throughts of publishing my Synod Sermon, & propose soon to fend it to you for your approbation . - I have been taken up for force lime past, in reading Loydeckor's Jarfenius, wherein I think the Brogress of the Doctrine of Merit in the Roman Church, & the Opposition made to it, with the arguments on both dides, is more fully & clearly Male , than

I have found any where refides. - the line very pois we here; pay jet ages of mein for the line given no thispure talestainments notwithflending the lifton in which we hope you will approve of our landed. The Villation of the Book took me up from the 1' of December till about eight Days ago, Xour Fiels of Estechiting must begin from . My Wife har been goodually monding in health fince we were with you, & is at profess free from Complaints. The wants to know if Mils Chiefly continues better of her dilments . I hopes he will make one in your Frain when you come North in Summer. I wish you would think periorly of this Journey.

Rev. d D. r Sir,

I had resolved to write you about three Months ago, immediately after our Return from your Country; but that, like many other good Resolutions, has been hitherto without Effect. I have not however been the less solicitous about your Welfare, as scarce a Sunday has past since I saw you, but I have been considering & enquiring who was to preach at Drummelzier? I was pleased to hear, by the Accounts of our Friends, that you were no worse, & we were greatly surprized to understand by your Friend Mr. Wallace lately, that you had begun to preach in your own home, in the Time of the Storm. This gave me Uneasiness, & made me imagine you were grown worse, as your Conduct looked so like Death-bed Repentance. Pray let me know that you are better, notwithstanding this threatening Symptom. I shall be in Suspense till I hear from you. - I suppose you will now be convinced from Experience, that the Operation of Preaching is not so hazardous as you imagined. Pray how does Mr. Plummer, your Brother & Companion in Tribulation? Does he continue his nightly Engagements with the Devil & Sir David Murray, as formerly? Is Dr Dickson still employed in the good Work of harrassing & persecuting his Brethren? Has the new Libel against him, as yet gone any Length? - I shall expect a Letter from you soon, containing a great many refreshing Notandums, in answer to these & the like interesting Queries. Mr. Wallace writes me that his Son will not find Leisure to visit Panninich this Season; but I am comforting myself with the Expectation that you will supply his Place, & that I shall have orders to bespeak your Quarters. I believe I told you that in November last I had bespoke you a Night's Lodging with the Minister of Strathaen, where I intend you shall make your Stage betwixt this & Glenmuick. I expect you will not now pretend to talk of your Frailty, the Distance, & such threadbare Excuses. The Condition of an operative & effective Minister, which you have lately re(torn)ed, must give you quite other Ideas. It is only while a Man sits lolling like a Dignitary, & gets his Charge supplied (torn)

Succession of Neighbours, Probationers, Doctors, & Weedmen that he imagines his Legs to be made of Glass, or his Body transformed into a Stone-quarry. - Perhaps a few Grains of Poverty & Diminution of Stipend, made up in a Bolus, or taken in the Morning fasting, might be of great Use to take off the Coldness, & restoring Motion to your Limbs. Experto crede Roberto: - The Channel of News here is quite frozen up, as well as the Rhine at Coblentz. During the late Frost we made a general Subscription for the Relief of the Poor, & collected more than an hundred Guineas. a great Part of which is already distributed. What surprized me more than the large Subscriptions of some particular Persons, was, that soon after the closing of the Subscription, no less than Seven Pounds Sterling in Silver was delivered me by a poor Woman that had lived on Charity for thirty Years past .- This poor Woman, tho' a Cripple, & 83 Years of Age, had by thrifty Management collected the aforesaid Sum to be distributed to the poor at her Death, besides her Grave-clothes & Coffin, which she has kept by her for more than ten Years past; item Seven new Plaids of her own Manufacture, which she disposed as follows, two to Mr. Wilken, one to the Episcopal Minister, & one to your humble Servant. - I mention my being in this Testament, because I am not, to my Knowledge, in any other, unless I find a Place in Mr. Cooper's, which is not yet made. - This Year, so far as it has past, has been very mortal here. We have had a Burial for every Day since the first of January, & the Mortality is going on at the same Rate. Coughs, Asthma's & Fevers are the most prevailing Disorders. - I see by the Papers that Mr. Boston is dead, which will be a considerable Relief to the Relief Presbytery, as they were in Danger of dividing anent his going to Glasgow, Mr. Baine & his Adherents refusing to loose his Relation to Jedburgh. - Dr. Witherspoon wrote me lately & promised me a Bill of Directions in his next, which is not yet arrived. I have observed your two Maxims inviolably ever since I left you, & hope you will send me more of them with your Conveniency. - I still have thoughts of publishing

my Synod Sermon, & propose soon to send it to you for your Approbation. -I have been taken up for some time past, in reading Leydecker's Jansenius. wherein I think the Progress of the Doctrine of Merit in the Roman Church. & the Opposition made to it, with the Arguments on both Sides, is more fully & clearly Stated, than I have found any where besides. - We live very private here; pay few Visits, & receive fewer. We have given no Christmas Entertainments, notwithstanding the Custom, in which we hope you will approve of our Conduct. The Visitation of the Parish took me up from the 1st of December till about eight Days ago, & our Diets of Catechising must begin soon. My Wife has been gradually mending in health since we were with you, & is at present free from Complaints. She wants to know if Miss Christy continues better of her Ailments, & hopes she will make one in your Train when you come North in Summer. I wish you would think seriously of this Journey.