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**Title:** Letter from Charles Nisbet to Alexander Nisbet

**Date:** December 11, 1801

**Location:** I-McIntoshM-1965-3

## **Contact:**

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Dear Jon .

We were agreeably surprised yetternight, by the Receipt of your deher, which we did not think loo long. William Millar fol out gefferday Morning with your Jacks, & three dellers for you, one from your differ, & two pour me, the last of which had Thirty Dollars inclosed for your Use, & a Number of Maximo of Sugality, valued at other Thirty Dollars . your Sifer fol out for Philadelphia at nine in the Morning 44lorday in Mrs . Duncan's Carriage . We find it hard enough to accuft on ourselves to our painful situation, especially as we expect no Relief from il, except by Death. We are however in a loterable State of Mealth at prefent. you have not told us the Price of your Ninter Charles . You were always expensive in the Article of Drefs. Take lase that your attendance on your daw Society may not hinder your Practice, as the Practice of the daw is better than the Theory you do well in avoiding Javerns. They are the Staughter houses of the most Part of the youth of this Country. I am glad that you are countersanced by your first Ocople, but I hope you will never neglect Bufinch , nor transgrep the daws of Sobriety. Drinking, like Law, is a bollomles Oil, & few of those who last into it, wer recover. Shun it, as you would thun Well & Damnation. The Cheapach of Merchanies on Account of the Peace has not reached this Olace, only the Wheat & Flour are cheaper. Butter fells from home. by Pence lo a quarter Tollan a pound, & Eggs from Eighteen Pence to two & dispense a Dozen. Tout one beyond all price, as few are brought to Market. Judge hom thefe of other Nech aries .

We are glad to hear that you pap your hime agreeably, but we chiefly with that you thould spend it profitably. No will endeavour to get your Violin from Ege's & Francis Gibfor has promifed to altered to the Pachage when we can find a Naggers. Jom reals nothing but Whiply, yel he Mormed at mentioning Albino's Reports, which he faid was at. most the only Book he had. Jake low that you do not run your left into Dell. especially for Drink . Be cardious , even in private baufes , as there are some People who give Touth, for encouraging Friending to .. Excep. Make yourfelf Matter of the Forms of Courts, & be faithful le your Clients. your deller le Breas Fouthe mas fent le Exhreim Steeli's who promised to get it delivered this Day. They your Office, that it may keep you. Middle not with Politics, & never name Them if possible. Do not even lay, that much may be faid on both. Sides . on you would be expoled to Sufficien & dop of Business. If Mr. Snowden had been elected, he would have been a faithful Minister, but would not perhaps have fuiled the Japle of your Deople . There was a certain Dean Glandye, a Mative of Brechin, who was Dean of Cathel in Ireland, lowerds the End of the fevenlocally Contary. He laid a Wager that he would pread a Jermon that thould make one half of his Audience cry, & the other Laugh. For this Ourpose he lest the Door of his Outpil open, & preached a Sermon on the Sufferings of our daviour with fuch Eloquence & Pathos. as really drew Jean from that holy of the longrega. lion who did not fee the Door of the Outgot. At the fame he

had taken lace to let down his Breches, & to tack up his Gown behind . to as to prefent his base Buttock to the View of one half of his Andience, who of Course laughed all the white. But his face being burned to the other End of the Church, all those who only heard his Discourse, were in tears. And in this Manner he gained his Wager. You do not mention whether the Mr. Glendye that you heard, look this Method of diplaying the lower that he had over his Andience. Perhaps you fal in the opposite End of the Church to the Door of the Person! del us hear from you by every Opportunity. your dellers are of great Confequence to is in our proowful State, as while you behave well, we are not without Comfort. Remember your beator , be quiet , & to your own Business, & all will go well with you. God never lorlook any who linearchy tought him. The Blefring of the dord maketh Rich, & he addeth no Sorngene with il. Jake the first Opportunity of acknowledging the Receipt of your Sichs, Letters & Money by William Miller. longel you, & pray doily. that God may give you No your, Grace & Mappineto, to be a Comfort to us in our Old-age. We will affift you to the almost of our Power , but as our Power is on lefrened, you must be very thrilly. Expecting to bear from you I remain Dear Sons. your effection de Father.

Cha Nisbet.

F. Charles Miles you wall so sory the Property Dear Son,

We were agreeably surprised vesternight, by the Receipt of your Letter, which we did not think too long. William Miller set out yesterday morning with your Socks, & these Letters for you, one from your sister, & two from me, the last of which had Thirty Dollars inclosed for your Use, & a number of maxims of frugality, valued at other Thirty Dollars. Your sister set our for Philadelphia at nine in the morning yesterday, in Mrs. Duncan's Carriage. We find it hard enough to accustom ourselves to our painful situation, especially as we expect no Relief from it, except by Death. We are however in a tolerable State of Health at present. You have not told us the Price of your Winter Cloaths. You were always expensive in the Article of Dress. Take care that your Attendance on your Law Society may not hinder your Practice, as the Practice of the Law is better than the Theory. You do well in avoiding Taverns. They are the Slaughterhouses of the most Part of the Youth of this Country. I am glad that you are countenanced by your first People, but I hope you will never neglect Business, nor transgress the Laws of Sobriety. Drinking, Like Law, is a bottomless Pit, & few of those who fall into it, ever recover. Shun it, as you would shun Hell & Damnation. The Cheapness of necessaries on Account of the Peace has not reached this place, only the wheat & flour are cheaper. Butter falls from twenty Pence to a quarter Dollar a pound, & Eggs from Eighteen Pence to two & Sixpence a Dozen. Fowls are beyond all price, as few are brought to market. Judge from these, or other Necessaries. We are glad to hear that you pass your time agreeably, but we chiefly wish that you should spend it profitably. We will endeavor to get your Violin from Ege's & Francis Griffon has promised to attend to the Package when we can find a Waggon. Tom reads nothing but Whisky, yet he stormed at mentioning Atkin's Reports, which he said was almost the only book he had. Take care that you do not run yourself into Debt, especially for Drink. Be cautious, even in private houses, as these are some people who give Toasts, for encouraging Drinking to Excess. Make yourself Master of the Forms of Courts, & be faithful to your Clients. Your letter to Oneas Foulke was sent to Ephraim Sleete's who promised to get it delivered this Day. Keep your office, that it may keep you. Muddle not wit Politics, & never name them, if possible. Do not even say, that much may be laid on both Sides, as you would be exposed to suspicion & Loss of Business. If Mr. Snowden had been elected, he would have been a faithful Minister, but would not perhaps have suited the Taste of your People. There was a certain Dean Glendye, a native of Brechin, who was Dean of Cashel in Ireland, towards the end of the Seventeenth Century. He laid a Wager that he would preach a sermon that should make one half of his Audience cry, & the other Laugh. For this Purpose he left the Door of his Pulpit open, & preached a Sermon on the Sufferings of our Saviour with such Eloquence & Pathos, as really drew tears from that half of the Congregation who did not see the Dorr of the Pulpit. All the same he had taken cause to let down his Breeches, & to tuck up his gown behind, so as to present his bare Buttocks to the View of one half of his Audience, who of course laughed all the while. But his face being turned to the other End of the Church, all those who only heard his Discourse, were in tears. And in this Manner he gained his Wager. You do not mention whether the Mr. Glendye that you

heard, took this method of displaying the Power he had over his Audience. Perhaps you sat in the opposite End of the church to the Door of the Pulpit. Let us hear from you by every opportunity. Your letters are of great consequence to us in our sorrowful state, as while you behave well, we are not without comfort. Remember your Creator, be quiet, & do your own Business, & all will go well with you. God never forsook any who sincerely sought him. The Blessing of the Lord maketh Rich, & he addeth sorrow with it. Take the first opportunity of acknowledging the Receipt of your Socks, Letters & Money by William Miller. We never forget you, & pray daily that God may give you all Wisdom, Grace & Happiness, to be a comfort to us in our Old age. We will assist you to the utmost of our Power, but as our power is now lessened you must be very thrifty. Expecting to hear from you, I remain

Dear Son, Your Affectionate Father, Chas. Nisbet