

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Charles Nisbet to Alexander Nisbet

Date: December 11, 1801

Location: I-McIntoshM-1965-3

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Dear Son,

Carlisle, 11th Decr. 1801.

We were agreeably surpris'd yesternight, by the Receipt of your Letter, which we did not think too long. William Miller set out yesterday Morning with your Sacks, & three Letters for you, one from your Sister, & two from me, the last of which had Thirty Dollars inclos'd for your Use, & a Number of Maxims of frugality, valued at other Thirty Dollars. Your Sister set out 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 Slaughter-houses 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 sells from two 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, of 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 endeavour to get your Violin from Ege's & Francis Gibson has promised to attend to the Package when we can find a Wagon. Tom reads nothing but Whiskey, yet he Stormed at mentioning Alkimi'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 there 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 Breca's Foulke was sent to Ephraim Steeb's who promised to get it delivered this Day. Keep your Office, that it may keep you. Meddle not with Politics, & never name them, if possible. Do not even say, that much may be said 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 seveneenth 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 Door of the Pulpit. At the same he

had taken care 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. Gledye
that you heard, took this Method of displaying the Power that 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 no 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 Wi^{dom}, 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.

D. Charles Nisbet
11 Dec. 1801

Mr. Alexander Nisbet,

Attorney at Law, No. 18.

North Gay Street,

Baltimore.



Carlisle, 11th Dec.r. 1801

Dear Son,

We were agreeably surprised yesternight, 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 out 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 Slaughtermans 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