

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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

## Documents Online

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

**Date:** September 24, 1798

**Location:** I-MurdochM-1952-1

### Contact:

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

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 24

1848.

I received your Letter only yesternight, by a young Man enquiring to Pittsburgh, who found it in a Window in Mr. Slough's at Lancaster. We were anxious to hear of your safe Arrival, especially as we had heard a dismal Story of Mrs. Wood, of Washington County, who was reported to have had her Skull fractured by the overturning of the Stage near the Spread Eagle, which is now said to be without foundation. We are sorry to hear that Coughs & Fevers continue to occur, as though you might be safe by confining yourself to your house, yet your Friends from the infected Parts of the City may visit you, & Mr. Turnbull may be exposed by going about on Business. A large Packet, directed to Mr. Turnbull, for which two Dollars of Postage were charged, was brought up by the Mail last Monday. We designed to send it by a Passenger in the Stage, but as he did not set out. Mr. Weakley, to whom your Brother gave the Charge of it, gave it to Augustus Geer, who promised to put it into the Stage Office at Lancaster. I shall be uneasy till I hear that Mr. Turnbull has received it, as it seemed to be a Packet of Importance, & probably came from England. I hope this will be delivered you by Mr. Irvine, of this Neighbourhood, who should have brought the Packet above mentioned, but durst not set out last Tuesday on Account of the Severity of the Weather, & his bad State of Health. The Frost however still continues, but we have had much less Rain & Snow than you have had at Philadelphia, as we were informed by the Bearer of your Mother's Letter. My Mother desires me to inform you that Mr. Turnbull need not be at the City for any of the things he spoke of, till we write you, except the Mustard, which you may see that he can trust. Mr. McGrath's Company of Players are here at present with great Encouragement. Your Sister went out to the Works yesternight, to see the Miser, notwithstanding the Severity of the Frost. The Paper would inform you that Miss Sally Montgomery was married on Tuesday Se'ennight to Mr. David Harris Merchant at York. A Number of Mr. Turnbull's Western Telegrapher was sent here by Mistake, the Publisher not having adverted to his Direction, to address it to him at Philadelphia. I hear that the Adventure, of Greenock, arrived lately at New York, but I have not seen her by that Vessel. You ought to be very cautious in receiving Visits, & to be very cautious to your Friends, to invite them not to see you, rather than endure Visits from them, & always suspicious. William Brown & all our Democrats are very much pleased, & proud, at the News of the late glorious Victory of the English over the French Fleet. And I doubt not that the Governor & all your Democratic Society are in deep

mourning occasion. All the French Houses in your City, I suppose, will be  
having with you your Democrats will take off their three-coloured cockades. At the  
first Meeting of Congress, Mr. Gallatin will propose an Address of Condolence to Citizen  
Talleyrand <sup>Director</sup> on that occasion, & he will be strongly supported by the Lyon  
of Vermont, has been he got out of Prison. Our Government seem, to stand in awe of Rogues  
of every denomination, as I hear that when Ambassador Logan had the Impudence to pre-  
sent Talleyrand's letters to the Secretary of State, he trembled very much, till Logan was  
got out of sight, when recovering his Courage by the Retreat of the Enemy, he ordered him  
to be punished, but it was too late, & I am told that the Directors of the Bank, to do them-  
selves Credit, imitated his Example, by suffering the Person who robbed the Bank, to make  
his Escape, tho' I believe afterwards they will offer a Reward for apprehending him, such,  
it seems, is the Way of doing Business in this enlightened Age! It is no wonder that the  
French are not afraid of us, when they find that the Officers of our Government are afraid  
to speak even to one of our own Citizens, when charged with the Orders of the terrible Republic.  
Mr. Jefferson & Judge McHean must laugh in their Sleeves, when they hear that their  
Envoy Extraordinary was as well received as those that were sent by the President, not only  
by the <sup>their</sup> good Friends, but by the Secretary of the United States, who  
by the Majesty of the Terrible Republic, by whom he was commissioned,  
No more <sup>the</sup> President, as it seems that he acted no Part in this Farce of Amba-  
sador <sup>patches</sup> will furnish Arguments to the Minority, at the approaching  
Session of <sup>Mr. Gallatin</sup> will endeavour to make the most of them, for the Purpose  
of stopping the Wheels of Government, & obstructing all Warlike Preparations against such a  
peaceable Nation as the French. - The Sassaquinna is now said to be full of Ice, & the  
while it purges your Air from Infection, must at the same time give  
you no <sup>as</sup> Wood must be both dear & scarce at present. Your Sister, with her  
well, but she is too lazy to write you. Nothing remarkable has hap-  
pened <sup>We</sup> expect Letters from Scotland, by some of the Ships that  
may this <sup>you</sup> do not mention your Children, but I hope, even from  
that Circumstances, that they are well, & have happily got over the Fatigues of the Journey.  
You will write us whether they remember any of us in this Place. The Report of the

yellow Fever in your City, which must have gone to Europe, with <sup>from</sup> arriving  
in the Delaware for some time. But if the French do not recover their Assemblies, there will be  
more Trade in the Spring, tho' the degraded State of America is such, by its numerous Woes,  
that it must take a considerable time, before it can recover itself. The former complaint of bad  
Seasons & the Fleasian Fly, as the Produce of the former good Seasons & high Prices, is all  
spent on Whisky & fine Cloathes. Multitudes of Emigrants are still going Westward, who must  
suffer great Hardships before they can make a comfortable settlement to themselves in the Wil-  
derness. Mr. Lang, from Washington County, is here just now. He has suffered much vexation  
from the Witches of his People, ~~some say~~ that he will leave them ~~in the Spring~~. He has  
brought his Wife & Child along with him, & William Blair probably will get leave to keep  
them, till he can find another Congregation, tho' by all Appearance, Ministers  
& Congregations are going rapidly out of fashion. Put Mr. Turnbull in Mind  
to write me whether he has got a Conveyance for the foreign Letters which  
he carried with him. I inclose two others in this Packet, one for Scotland  
& another, which is Mr. Tale's, for Ireland, which I hope he will take  
to get conveyed to Dublin, or any Port in the North of Ireland. The  
United Irishmen are arriving here daily, who will be great Blessings  
Country in the Event of a War with France, to whose Interests they  
The Bell was rung for some hours yesterday, & a Bonfire was made <sup>at</sup> House,  
which kept burning till eleven o'Clock at Night, by way of rejoicing for <sup>the</sup> Victory of  
Admiral Nelson over the French, which must seem very strange in a Place <sup>where</sup> we have  
seen so many Bonfires & Rejoicings of late, for the Successes of the French. I shall take  
every opportunity that I can find, to write you, hoping that you will do the same on  
your Part. When the Monday's Post brought us no Letters from you, we <sup>thought</sup> that you  
would write us by Dr. Armstrong, but he is not yet arrived, tho' <sup>he</sup> da <sup>remember</sup>  
us kindly to Mr. Turnbull & the Girls, & write me all the <sup>particulars</sup> of your  
Place, especially of your own health, & whether the Infection is <sup>yet</sup>  
Dear Mary,  
Your Father,  
Wm. Nisbet.

Surnbull,

N<sup>o</sup> 229. Market Street,

opposite, tho' not opposed, to the

President of the United States,

Philadelphia.

---

179