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Title: Letter from Charles Keith to Anne Nisbet

Date: July 11, 1805

Location: I-TurnbullM-undated-1

Contact:

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Dear Madam

Harrogate July 11th
1805

For more than a year I have
been indulging myself with the hopes of hearing from
you or from some of your Family, the irreparable
breach in which has been to me the source of much
painful regret and of many a melancholy reflection

You also have been deprived of one of the
best of Husbands, and one of the best of Men in
forever lost to his Friends and Mankind, and
what has not his beloved Family lost!; most
sincerely do I feel for you and for your Family
and most heartily sympathize with you and
with them. Truly sensible of your extreme
cause of affliction, I lament in ^{the} ~~the~~ grief of Men,
and one of the best of Friends, one when living whom
I loved with the most sincere attachment and one
whom I will never cease to mourn till I cease to live

He did honour to his Country and to
Mankind, but his Merits were not duly prized
the World was not worthy of him.

I have lately paid the humble
tribute of Gratitude to the Memory of departed
Excellence in a Monody. I have written
to

to his Memory, and I hope you and your Family
will forgive the Prose and Verse with which the
little performance abounds. The Author could scarcely
prevail on himself to make the attempt well
knowing how unfit his Talents were to celebrate
even in a becoming manner the Genius and the
Virtues of his matchless Friend, but as no one had
undertaken the Task, he was induced to make a
feeble effort in honour of his never to be forgotten
Friend, in honour of departed Excellence, and
transcendent Genius. - From my particular solicitude
I have requested the favour of our good friend D. Patten
to get this forwarded to you along with half a

Dozen Copies of the Monody. Much does the
good Doctor feel for the loss of his unwilled
Friend and much is he interested in those that
were near and dear to him. May I request
the favour of hearing how you and your Family
do. I would have written to your eldest Son who
is my old acquaintance had I known where to
address you here. Or so good as you whether any
of the ^{Doctors} valuable Writings are to be published, it
is pity that such should be lost to the World forever.
I have thought if you should till Winter of publishing
a second Edition of the Monody with some additional verses or
Print of the Doctor's Epitaph from a Picture that drawn of him
many years ago - With very good wishes to you and your Family
and the hope of hearing from you on some of these of your Family
With Regard
Dear Madam, Your sincere Friend & Servant
Wm. Keble
P.S. Address for Doctor Keble
to the care of John Nevill Esq. Collector of London Customs. Charles Keble

Manse of Craig July 23-1805

Dear Madam I take the opportunity

of Dr Keith's letter to express my condolences with you
of your family upon the loss of so worthy an husband, &
so affectionate a parent, God is the judge of the widow
& a Father of the Fatherless, I hope that you & yours
will find him so. All your friends have long looked for
anetification from some one of your family of your husband's
death but in vain the changes which have happened in
Montrose since you left it are innumerable, almost all
your acquaintances are dead, Mrs Paterson a friend by our
family is still alive, her husband is in the last stage of life.
Mrs Mitchell who came to Montrose immediately after you
left it, & married Mrs Mollison's Daughter, take by r.
his change, because he considered himself a
useful than he wished, he & his family reside in
waiting for some situation where he may be useful, he
any attempt
to obtain a vacant charge in London, formerly Mrs Creedon's,
but with not success, his place in Montrose is to be supplied
within a few weeks by a Mr ^{is date} a countryman of government
Indeed by the infirmities of age I resigned my charge
about fifteen months ago, my successor is a Mr Brewster
from Jedburgh, an eminent man. With this you will
receive six copies of a small work composed by Doctor
Keith purposely to do honour to the memory of
your deceased worthy husband, please to acknow-
ledge the receipt of this, my family unite with me in
Compliments of condolence with you & yours, & ever remain
Dear Madam yours affectionately
J. Paton

C. Keith & James Patton
to Mrs. Nisbet
July 11. 1805

~~Mrs. Nisbet~~
widow of Doctor Charles Nisbet
late President of the College
of W. Carlisle, Pennsylvania

W. America

with my name

Dear Madam

Harrogate July 11th

1805

For more than a year I have been indulging myself with the hopes of hearing from you or from some of your Family, the irreparable [!], breach in which has been to me the source of much painful regret and of many a melancholy reflection

You also have been deprived of one of the best of Husbands, and one of the best of Men is forever lost to his Friends and Mankind, and what has not his beloved Family lost!; most sincerely do I feel for you and for your Family and most heartily sympathise with you and with them - Duly sensible of your extreme cause of affection, I lament in it one of the first of Men as, I one of the best of Friends, one when living whom I loved with the most sincere attachment and one whom I will never cease to mourn till I cease to live

He did honour to his Country and to Mankind, but his Merits were not duly prized the World was not worthy of him -

I have lately paid the humble tribute of Gratitude to the Memory of departed Excellence in a Monody I have written to his Memory, and I hope you and your Family will forgive the Errors and Defects with which the little performance abounds -, the Author could scarcely prevail on himself to make the attempt well knowing how unfit his Talents were to celebrate in a becoming manner the Genius and the Virtues of his matchless Friend, - but as no one has undertaken the Task, he was induced to make a feeble effort in honour of his never to be forgotten Friend, in honour of departed Excellence, and transcendant Genius. - From my particular situation I have requested the Favour of our good friend D.^r Paton to get this forwarded to you along with along with half a Dozen Copies of the Monody - Much does the good Doctor feel for the loss of his unrivalled Friend and much is he interested in those that

were near and dear to him - May I request the favour of hearing how you and your Family do -, I would have written to your eldest Son who is my old acquaintance had I known where to address for him - Be so good as say whether any of the Doctors valuable Writings are to be published-, it is pity that such should be lost to the World forever

I have thoughts if I am spared till Winter of publishing a second Edition of the Monody with some additions and a Print of the Doctor taken from a Picture I had drawn of him many years ago - With every good wish to you and your Family and in hopes of hearing from you or some Branch of your Family I remain With Regard

Your Sincere Friend & Obed.^t Ser.^t

P.S. Address for Doctor Keith
to the care of John Keith Esq^r

Charles Keith

Collector of Customs, Montrose

Manse of Craig July 23 . 1805

Dear Madam

I take the opportunity of D^r Keiths letter to express my condolence with you & your family upon the loss of so worthy an husband, & so affectionate a parent, God is the judge of the widow.. & a father of the Fatherless. I hope that you & yours will find him so. All your friends here long looked for a notification from some one of your family of your husbands death but in vain. The changes which have to appeared in Montrose since you left it are innumerable, almost all your acquaintances are dead, M^{rs} Paterson a friend to your family is still alive, her husband is in the last stage of life. M^r Whitehall, who came to Montrose immediately after you left it, & married M^r Mollesons Daughter, lately resigned, his charge, because he considered himself a, torn, useful than he wished, he & his family reside in E, dinburgh,, waiting for some situation where he may be useful, he, made, an attempt to obtain a vacant charge in London, formerly M^r Greedens, but without success; his place in Montrose is to be supplied within a few weeks by a M^r Esdaille a countryman of your own. Induced by the infirmities of age I resigned my charge about fifteen Months ago, my Successor is a M^r Brewster from Sedburgh, an eminent man. With this you will receive Six copies of a Small work composed by Doctor Keith purposely to do honour to the memory of your deceased worthy husband, please to acknowledge the receipt of this, my family unite with me in Compliments of condolence with you & yours, I remain

Dear Madam Yours affectionately

Ja.^s Paton

On verso:

M^{rs} Nisbet

widow of Doctor Charles Nisbet late President of the College
of N. Carlisle, Pennsylvania N^r: America.