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**Title:** Letter from Charles Nisbet to Selina Hastings

**Date:** July 26, 1771

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## **Contact:**

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Il must give Olaspure to every Loves of Unit & of true Religion , to

hear that a Porton of your Ladythip's Kank & Confequence in the World is for interested in the Affair of thist : Kinglow in for degenerate an age no own is . Il would been that Mr. Noting by his Oreaching & Conferences has been but too purcepful in feducing many of the ignorant & unway into his Motions, He has been long Supported of teaching Doctrines income fillend with the Gofnel of Christ, & tending to encourage fall simon in a Reliance on their Note a Merite for Juflification. In his last Conference he seems to have taken off the Mask, A openly to inculcate the old Copife Dortrine of the Maint of good Works wought by Sinners in a fals whote, in circul Opposition to ye articles of the Church of England which he must have figured . I to the Doctrine which he has many times preach it . It is easy to revive an old exploded Herefy when one lakes no Motice of what has been faid against it, by tortuing an innocent tingle Expression in Holy Seriptane to give it Countemance. The Obscurity & ambiguity with which Mr. Willey caprepes himself give flying Supridow against his Succeity as well as his botherday. I I had all Mr. Willey's Publications by me, I think it would be easy to frew that every -Doesine afferted & countenanced in his last Conference is directly contrary to what he himself has often preached & published to the Wold as the true Goppel of Clinis: But I be that he is already provided with an answer to this, by acknowledging that he & his Brethren have been diffruiting only about Nords for these thirty Hears nath. It is true that General Council & public Conference have sociely below been favourable to the Interests of true Religion as Men bing their private Origination & attachments to these afformblies, & come refolved to maintain their for mer Opinions, whalever may be faid against them; not to aid that these Meetings have led many to place their Juille on burnan Authority rather than the Jestimony of God in the Holy Scriplan But so the prefent Conference proposed by the acknowledged Friends of true Religion , who must know the Situation of things in South Britain, & before as it must took to illustrate & Point of Fact, vis . that the Doctrines now taught by Mr. Wefley & his Brethren , are contrang to what is laught & believed by the brooky Orthodon Ministers of Christ in Great Britain for these Reasons, I rejoice that it is to be held, It cheerfully contribute my noor Testimony in Support of the Truth. More can have the Vanity to believe that storighture, Reafon & argument will have the Effect to enlighten ther. Nefley who is a Person of great Learning and Ingentity . I can not be peppeded to our from Ignorance. But perhaps the concurring define. my of many acknowledged bothodox Ministers of Christ may be sufficient to open the Eyes of fone

The Reverant Am Chenles Nashet more of the Gorpele att Montron of his followers & to convince them that Mr. Nefley's new Jose free are counteronced only by the Passiths & four Comminians . I that be glad to hear of the offer of the intended in ference. & pray that god by his sport way to sived his faithful servants, that they may be enabled to bear honourable deflinency to the souths of things & in mickey to infinit those that oppose themselves , if God perceiventure with give them Represtate to the acknowledging of the Fresh. - I am, Madam , Mor Ladythin's most obediend himble dervand, Montrofe , 26 th July , 1771 .

Madam,

It must give Pleasure to every Lover of Christ & of true Religion, to hear that a erson of your Ladyship's Rank & Consequence in the World is so interested in the Affairs of Christ's Kingdom, in so degenerate an Age as ours is. It would seem that Mr. Wesley by his Preaching & Conferences has been but too successful in seducing many of the ignorant & unwary into his Notions. He has been long suspected of teaching Doctrines inconsistent with the Gospel of Christ, & tending to encourage false Sinners in a Reliance on their Works & Merits for Justification. In his last Conference he seems to have taken off the Mask, & openly to inculcate the old Popish Doctrine of the Merit of good Works wrought by Sinners in a false State, in direct Opposition to ye Articles of the Church of England which he must have sign'd, & to the Doctrine which he has many times preach'd. It is easy to revive an old exploded Heresy when one takes no Notice of what has been said against it, by torturing an innocent single Expression in Holy Scripture to give it Countenance. The Obscurity & ambiguity with which Mr. Wesley expresses himself gives Strong Suspicions against his Sincerity as well as his Orthodoxy. If I had all Mr. Wesley's Publications by me, I think it would be easy to shew that every Doctrine affected & countenanced in his last Conference, is directly contrary to what he himself has often preached & published to the World as the true Gospel of Christ: But, I see that he is already provided with an Answer to this, by acknowledging that he & his Brethren have been disputing only about Words for these thirty Years past. It is true that General Councils & public Conferences have seldom been favourable to the Interests of true Religion, as Men bring their private Prejudices & Attachments to these Assemblies, & come resolved to maintain their former Opinions, whatever may be said against them; not to add that these Meetings have led many to place their Faith in human Authority rather than one Testimony of God in the Holy Scripture. But as the present Conference is proposed by the Acknowledged Friends of true Religion, who must know the Situation of things in South Bricain, & besides as it must tend to illustrate & Point of Fact, viz. that the Doctrines now taught by Mr. Wesley & his Brethren, are contrary to what is taught & believed by the truly Orthodox Minister of Christ in Great Britain for these Reasons, I rejoice that it is to be held, & cheerfully contribute my poor Testimony in support of the

Truth. None can have the Vanity to believe that Scripture, Reason & Argument will have the Effect to enlighten Mr. Wesley, who is a Person of great Learning and Ingenuity, & can not be supposed to err from Ignorance. But perhaps the concurring Testimony of many acknowledged Orthodox Ministers of Christ, may be sufficient to open the Eyes of some of his followers & to convince them that Mr. Wesley's new Doctrines are countenanced only by the Papists & some Arminians. - I shall be glad to hear of the Eyes of the intended Conference, & pray that God by his Spirit may so direct his faithful Servants, that they be enabled to bear honourable Testimony to the Truths of Christ, & in meekness to instruct those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them Resistance to the acknowledging or the Truth. - I am,

Madam,

Your Ladyship's

most obedient humble Servant,

Montrose, 26th July, 1771.

To

The Reverend

Mr Charles Nisbet Minr

of the Gospel at

Montrose