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Title: Letter from Charles Nisbet to the Minister of Drumelzier

Date: February 24, 1767

Location: I-TurnbullM-undated-4

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New-² Sir,

Montrose, 24th February, 1767.

I had resolv'd to write you about three Months ago, immediately after our Return from your Country; but that, like many other good Resolutions, has been hitherto without Effect. I have not however been the less solicitous about your Welfare, as scarce a Sunday has pass'd since I saw you, but I have been considering & enquiring who was to preach at Drummelzier? I was pleas'd to hear, by the accounts of our Friends, that you were no worse, & we were greatly surpris'd to understand by your Friend Mr. Wallace lately, that you had begun to preach in your own house, in the Time of the Storm. This gave me Uneasiness, & made me imagine you were grown worse, as your Conduct look'd so like Death-bed Repentance. Pray let me know that you are better, notwithstanding this threatening Symptom. I shall be in Suspense till I hear from you. — I suppose you will now be convinc'd from my this threatening Symptom. I shall be in Suspense till I hear from you. — I suppose you will now be convinc'd from my Experience, that the Operation of Preaching is not so hazardous as you imagin'd. Pray how does Mr. Plummer, your Brother & Companion in Tribulation? Does he continue his nightly Engagements with the Devil & Sir David Murray, as formerly? Is Dr. Dickson still employ'd in the good Work of harrassing & persecuting his Brethren? Has the new Libel against him, as yet gone any Length? — I shall expect a Letter from you soon, containing a great many refreshing Notandums, in answer to these & the like interesting Queries. Mr. Wallace writes me that his Son will not find Leisure to visit Darninich this Season; but I am conso'ling myself with the Expectation that you will supply his Place, & that I shall soon have Orders to bespeak your Quarters. I believe I told you that in November last I had bespoke you a Night's Lodging with the Minister of Strathaven, where I intend you shall make your Stage short at this & Glenmuick. I expect you will not now pretend to talk of your Family, the Distance, & such thread-bare Excuses. The Condition of an operative & effective Minister, which you have lately receiv'd, must give you quite other Ideas. It is only while a Man sits talking like a Dignitary, & gets his Chaise supplied with the Reception of Neighbours, Probationers, Doctors & Physicians that he imagines his Legs to be made of Glass, or his Feet transform'd into a Stone-quarry. — Perhaps a few Grains of Severity & Diminution of Stipend, made up in a Botas, taken in the Morning fasting, might be of great Use to take off the Coldness, & restoring Motion to your Limbs. Experto crede Roberto. — The Channel of News here is quite frozen up, as well as the Rhine at Coblenz. During the late Frost we made a general Subscription for the Relief of the Poor, & collected more than an hundred Guineas, a great Part of which is already distributed. What surpris'd me more than the large Subscriptions of some particular Persons, was, that soon after the closing of the Subscription, no less than Seven Pound Sterling in Silver was deliver'd me by a poor Woman that had liv'd on Charity for thirty Years past. — This poor Woman, tho' a Cripple, & 83 Years of Age, had by thrifty Management collected the aforesaid sum to be distributed to the poor at her Death, besides her Grave-clothes & Coffin, which she has kept by her for more than ten Years past; item seven new Plaids of her own Manufacture, which she dispos'd as follows, two to Mr. Wilken, one to the Episcopall Minister, & one to your humble Servant. — I mention my being in this Testament, because I am not, to my Knowledge, in any other, unless I find a Place in Mr. Cooper's, which is not yet made. — This Year, so far as it has pass'd, has been very mortal here. We have had a Burial for every Day since the first of January, & the Mortality is going on at the same Rate, Coughs, Asthma's & Fevers are the most prevailing Disorders. — I see by the Papers that Mr. Boston is promis'd me a Bill of Directions in his next, which is not yet arriv'd. I have observ'd your two Maxims invidiously ever since I left you, & hope you will send me more of them with your Convenience. — I will have thoughts of publishing my Synod Sermon, & propose soon to send it to you for your Approbation. — I have been taken up for some time past, in reading Leydecker's Jansenius, wherein I think the Progress of the Doctrine of Merit in the Roman Church, & the Opposition made to it, with the Arguments on both sides, is more fully & clearly shal'd, than

I have found any where besides. — We live very poor as here; pay for us here. We have given no Christmas
entertainments, notwithstanding the Custom, for which we hope you will approve of our Conduct. The Visitation of the People
took me up from the 1st of December till about eight Days ago, & our Diets of Catechizing must begin soon. My Wife has
been gradually mending in health since we were with you, & is at present free from Complaints. She wants to know
if Miss Christy continues better of her Abiments. I hopes she will make me in your Train when you come North
in Summer. I wish you would think seriously of this Journey.

Montrose, 24th February, 1767.

Rev.^d D.^r Sir,

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Succession of Neighbours, Probationers, Doctors, & Weedmen that he imagines his Legs to be made of Glass, or his Body transformed into a Stone-quarry. - Perhaps a few Grains of Poverty & Diminution of Stipend, made up in a Bolus, or taken in the Morning fasting, might be of great Use to take off the Coldness, & restoring Motion to your Limbs. Experto crede Roberto: - The Channel of News here is quite frozen up, as well as the Rhine at Coblantz. During the late Frost we made a general Subscription for the Relief of the Poor, & collected more than an hundred Guineas, a great Part of which is already distributed. What surprized me more than the large Subscriptions of some particular Persons, was, that soon after the closing of the Subscription, no less than Seven Pounds Sterling in Silver was delivered me by a poor Woman that had lived on Charity for thirty Years past.- This poor Woman, tho' a Cripple, & 83 Years of Age, had by thrifty Management collected the aforesaid Sum to be distributed to the poor at her Death, besides her Grave-clothes & Coffin, which she has kept by her for more than ten Years past; item Seven new Plaids of her own Manufacture, which she disposed as follows, two to Mr. Wilken, one to the Episcopal Minister, & one to your humble Servant. - I mention my being in this Testament, because I am not, to my Knowledge, in any other, unless I find a Place in Mr. Cooper's, which is not yet made. - This Year, so far as it has past, has been very mortal here. We have had a Burial for every Day since the first of January, & the Mortality is going on at the same Rate. Coughs, Asthma's & Fevers are the most prevailing Disorders. - I see by the Papers that Mr. Boston is dead, which will be a considerable Relief to the Relief Presbytery, as they were in Danger of dividing anent his going to Glasgow, Mr. Baine & his Adherents refusing to loose his Relation to Jedburgh. - Dr. Witherspoon wrote me lately & promised me a Bill of Directions in his next, which is not yet arrived. I have observed your two Maxims inviolably ever since I left you, & hope you will send me more of them with your Conveniency. - I still have thoughts of publishing

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