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Title: Letters from Charles Nisbet to William Young, 1790-91

Date: 1790-1791

Location: MC 2001.5, B1, F3-4

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
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Dickinson College
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Carlisle, 4th January 1790.

Dear Sir,

I received yours with Alkin's Reports this Day, & am sorry that I can not send you the Money. I am always afraid of adding to the Distresses - you mention, as our Trustees behave like Bankrupts, & I must stand or fall, as they please. The Profits of last Year do not appear to have made the People either more honest or more grateful to Providence. Adversity may awaken those who are deaf to Prosperity. You will receive by the Bearer Capt. Denny Eight - Single Sheet Letters & ~~two~~ ^{three} double ones, to be transmitted to Europe in the - safest Manner that you can find. I am obliged to you for the Care you have taken of those that were sent by Mr. Marshall, & hope you will be no less careful with Respect to those now sent. I beg that you would keep it a secret that you receive any Letters from me, as I have many Reasons to suspect that not a few of my Letters have been intercepted by the Malice of a vile Personal Enemy, & not suffered to go on to Europe. Mr. Dobson has been careful enough, but as he is obliged to send his Boy to the - Post Office, I know not what Influence may be used to make him keep back Letters, unknown to his Master. I must therefore beg the favour of your conveying the inclosed in a cautious Manner, not that there are any Secrets in them, but because I wish them to be conveyed to my Friends & not stopp'd by the Way, as not a few of mine have been before. I almost never wrote any Letter that I might not have published in the Newspapers, except one, - which by the Baseness of the Bearer, was actually published in them. I am told there is no Penalty on opening Letters here, & I heard a Gentleman a few Days ago confessing that he had broke up a Letter at the Post Office here, & taken a Copy of it. This is Liberty with a Vengeance, & the Postmaster it seems permit it. You do not mention in your Letter whether you enquired for the Parcel at Robert Alkin's, address'd to me, which I saw, when last in your City. I wish you could get it convey'd here by first Waggon. I am sorry that you did not visit this Place as you intended. I should have been glad to see you, as we have so few Visitors that we can call ^{not} Friends. I hope that the Distresses you speak of have not hurt you, & shall endeavour ^{not} to add to the Number, but I have seldom received as much at a time, as the Sum in your last Account. They talk of giving me some Money soon, which if I receive, I shall send you by the first Person I can

best, unless you should come sooner yourself. But there is no relying on Promises in this Country, as no Body is in the least ashamed to break their Word. Mr. Anderson made me a Call last Week & I hope to see him again, before he leaves this Place. A Scotch Man left with me a few Days, a Manuscript of Sermons by Mr. Samuel Rutherford which he intends to publish, but I advised him to sell it to you, & promised to transcribe it for the Bosp. as he will spoil the Sale of it, if he does what he intends, - that is if he employ some Ministers in Westmoreland where he lives to alter the Scotch Words, & takes the Work of transcribing upon himself, which I am afraid he is not equal to. I have no Doubt that the Sermons are genuine, & even suppose that the Manuscript is in the hand-writing of the Author, as the Greek Words that are quoted, are written in their proper Characters: But I know not how these Sermons which are in the Style of Mr. Rutherford's Letters, would be received in the present Age, especially in this Country where there are so few who understand either the Scotch Dialect, or the Language of serious Religion. & many might ridicule both the Style & the Matter. The Sermons were bought from Dr. Clark, an old Minister of the Secession, whom perhaps you know. I hear little from Scotland, and am still afraid of hearing less, as many of my Correspondents are thicken in Years. If the Beavers were not just going away. I would have transcribed a few Sentences from the Sermons, to convince you that they are genuine, but perhaps you have seen them before. I thank you for the fine Copy of Mrs. Gibb's Contemplations, which you sent me by Mr. Jait. It will enable me to lend out the other more freely to some that have Need, but there are few here that read religious Books, & fewer that know how to give back any Book that they borrow. There were about fifty Subscribers for Mrs. Gibb's Works in this Place & Neighbourhood, but I am afraid that few of them have read it, & not many have paid for their Copies, & I can not conceive how People should expect to get good by a Book that they will not pay for, or give back to the Owner. But the People here are as ridiculous in other Points, as they expect to get good by their Ministers, tho' they seldom either pay them or hear them. Wishing you all Happiness. I am with Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant

Cha. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 8th January 1790.

Dear Sir,

I received yours with Atkinson's Reports this Day, & am sorry that I can not send you the Money. I am always afraid of adding to the failures you mention, as our Trustees behave like Bankrupts, & I must stand or fall, as they please. The Profits of fall Crop do not appear to have made the People either more honest or more grateful to Providence. Adversity may awaken those who are deaf to Prosperity. You will receive by the Bearer Capt. Denny Eight Single Sheet Letters & ~~two~~ three double ones, to be transmitted to Europe in the safest Manner you can find. I am obliged to you for the Care you have taken of those that were sent by Mr. Marshal, & hope you will be no less careful with Respect to those now sent. I beg that you would keep it a secret that you receive any Letters from me, as I have many Reasons, to suspect that not a few of my Letters have been intercepted by the Malice of a vile Personal Enemy, & not suffered to go on to Europe. Mr. Dobson has been careful enough, but as he is obliged to send his Boy to the Post Office, I know not what Influence may be used to make him keep back Letters, unknown to his Master. I must therefore beg the favour of your conveying the inclosed in a cautious Manner, not that there are any Secrets in them, but because I wish them to be conveyed to my Friends, & not stopp'd by the Way, as not a few of mine have been before. I almost never wrote any Letters that I might not have published in the Newspapers, except one, which by the Baseness of the Bearer, was actually published in them. I am told there is no Penalty on opening Letters here, & I heard a Gentleman a few Days ago confessing that he had broke up a Letter at the Post Office here, & taken a Copy of it. This is Liberty with a Vengeance, & the Postmasters it seems permit it. You do not mention in your Letter whether you enquired for the Parcel at Robert Atkin's, addressed to me, which I saw, when last in your City. I wish you could get it conveyed here by first Waggon. I am sorry that you did not visit this Place as you intended. I should have been glad to see you, as we have so few Visitors that we can call Friends. I hope that the Failures you speak of have not hurt you, & shall endeavour ^ not to add to the Number, but I have seldom received as much at a time, as the Sum in your last Account. They talk of giving me some Money soon, which if I receive, I shall send you by the first Person I can

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Dear Sir,
Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 30th Sept. 1790.

Dear Sir,

I had no Exception to taking in & encouraging your Magazine, providing that it contained nothing contrary to Religion & good Morals. I can bear harmless Nonsense as well as another, & could even overlook the Scare-crow Figures of Boys and foolish Maxims, of Gesticulation with which it was sometimes stuffed, but since it appears by your August Number that it is to be a Vehicle of Infidelity, Blasphemy, & Ribaldry, I can not in Conscience encourage it any further, or have any thing more to do with it, & think that every Person who regards Religion & Morality ought to do the like. It was indeed needless to send my copy, but you need not trouble yourself to send my Son's either, as he is gone to live at Misslin, with which there is no Communication from this Place except once a Quarter. And I would not wish him to read Books that call Adultery, Fornication, Drunkenness & Dishonesty "the innocent Infirmitics of human Nature," and which represents an ignorant Quack as wiser than Solomon & the Holy Spirit. There are enough to encourage these vile Opinions, tho' Ministers & Professors of the Christian Religion ~

give their Testimony against them. I wish well to the Sale of
all good Books & Pamphlets, but when a public Collection
becomes literally an Asylum, into which all Invids & Black-
guards may enter at Pleasure, & pour forth their Venem against
Religion & Learning, I can not have any Concern with it, nor
suffer my Children or my Pupils to look into it, you may charge
both Copies to my Account, to far as received, but I do not wish
to hear any more of them. I hoped to have paid you before this
time what I have been so long due you, & had a Promise from
the Trustees of more than two Hundred Pounds, of my Arrears,
but as these Gentlemen perform their Promises only with Ameri-
can Faith, & I suppose some of your Scoundrel Authors have
prevented the Gentleman who was to have paid his Subscription,
I must go without it for the time. As soon as I can get any
Money, your Account shall be paid, for which Purpose you may
send a Copy of it with Mr. Alexander the Bearer on his Return
I think that it is hurting a Publication to allow every Scoun-
drel to put his filthy warts into it, but you have got other Arguments
& ought not to be surpris'd if every Person of good Sense
& Character should give up your Magazine. There are ~

kill a few here & there who love good things, & would wish
to see them in Print, but I can not conceive a more hateful
Character than that of a Publisher of Blasphemy & Infidelity,
as he does the greatest Injury that can be done by Men, I
mean that of corrupting their Principles, &
polluting their Imagination, to those that have
done him no Wrong, If Satan were to keep a
Printer, I do not think that he would be other-
wise employed than most of them are with us
in loosening the Bonds of Morality, & adding
Fuel to the lusts of Men. I am, Sincerely,

Sir, Your well-wisher

& humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 30th Sepr. 1790.

Dear Sir,

I had no Exception to taking in & encouraging your Magazine, providing that it contained nothing contrary to Religion & good Morals. I can bear harmless Nonsense as well as another, & could even overlook the Scare-crow Figures of Boys and foolish Maxims of Gesticulation with which it was sometimes stuffed, but since it appears by your August Number that it is to be a Vehicle of Infidelity, Blasphemy, & Ribaldry, I can not in Conscience encourage it any further, or have any thing more to do with it, & think that every Person who regards Religion & Morality ought to do the like. It was indeed needless to send my Copy, but you need not trouble yourself to send my Son's either, as he is gone to live at Mifflin, with which there is no Communication from this Place except once a Quarter. And I would not wish him to read Books that call Adultery, Fornication, Drunkenness & Dishonesty "the innocent Infirmities of human Nature," and which represents an ignorant Quack as wiser than Solomon & the Holy Spirit. There are enough to encourage these vile Opinions, tho' Ministers & Professors of the Christian Religion

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give their Testimony against them. I wish well to the Sale of all good Books & Pamphlets, but when a public Collection becomes literally an Asylum, into which all Infidels & Black guards may enter at Pleasure, & pour forth their Venom against Religion & Learning, I can not have any Concern with it, nor suffer my Children or my Pupils to look into it. you may charge both Copies to my Account, so far as received, but I do not wish to hear any more of them. I hoped to have paid you before this time what I have been so long due you, & had a Promise from the Trustees of more than two Hundred Pound, of my Arrears, but as these Gentlemen perform their Promises only with American Faith, & I suppose some of your Scoundrel Authors have prevented the Gentleman who was to have paid his Subscription, I must go without it for the time. As soon as I can get any Money, your Account shall be paid, for which Purpose you may send a Copy of it with Mr. Alexander the Bearer on his Return I think that it is hurting a Publication to allow every Scoundrel to put his filth unto it, but you have got other thoughts & ought not to be surprised if every Person of good Sense & Character should give up your Magazine. There are

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still a few here & there who love good things, & would wish to see them in Print, but I can not conceive a more hateful Character than that of a Publisher of Blasphemy & Infidelity, as he does the greatest Injury that can be done by Men. I mean that of corrupting their Principles, & polluting their Imagination, to those that have done him no Wrong. If Satan were to keep a

Printer, I do not think that he would be otherwise employed than most of them are with us in
Loosening the Bonds of Morality, & adding Fuel to the lusts of Men. I am, Sincerely,

Sir, Your well-wisher
humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 5th Sept. 1791.

Dear Sir,

The Bearer is a French Boy, who with several others has become weary of remaining at their Settlement on the River Sciotto, & is disposed to settle at Philadelphia, in hopes of finding some Employment or Service there that might be more to his liking. He has a regular Passport to show, and applied to me for Direction. I have taken the Liberty to recommend him to you, that you may introduce him to some of his own Nation, or to any that may be of Use of them. Dr. Rep, who is much conversant with Foreigners, may be of Use to you in this Matter. I am, in haste,

Dear Sir,

Mine, &c.

Chas: Nisbet

Carlisle, 5th Sepr. 1791.

Dear Sir,

The Bearer is a French Boy, who with several others has become weary of remaining at their Settlement on the River Sciotto, & is disposed to settle at Philadelphia, in hopes of finding some Employment or Service there that might be more to his liking. He has a regular Passport to show, and applied to me for Direction. I have taken the Liberty to recommend him to you, that you may introduce him to some of his own Nation, or to any that may be of Use of him. Dr. Ross, who is much conversant with foreigners, may be of Use to you in this Matter. I am, in haste,

Dear Sir,
Yours, Eqc. [?]

Chas. Nisbet.

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 1st October, 1791.

You Citizens of Philadelphia are so great Men, that it is almost impossible for a poor Man in the Country to get you to answer one Letter. I am obliged to apply to you at present on two Affairs in which I am concerned. Last Year in August I sent a small Box, containing Petrefactions & addressed to the Earl of Buchan, to the Care of Mr. Dobson, & having learned that the said Box was never sent to Greenock, I wrote a few Weeks ago to Mr. Dobson, intreating him to send it by the Ajax, Capt Weir, now in your Harbour, but have got no Answer. David Rowan affirms that the Box was delivered to Mr Dobson but Mr. Pagan, to whose Care it was directed, writes me that he never received it. It would be a great favour if you would enquire after this Box, & deliver it to Capt. Weir, I shall pay you the Freight with the greatest Cheerfulness. Mr Dobson received from London by the Apollo Capt Billings a small Box 18 Inches in Length, 10 in Breadth & 9 in Depth, directed to Mr. William Dudgeon, Monaghan Town Ship, York County, to my Care, It was shipped at London 31st July 1790. But I only get Notice of it a Month ago by a Letter from Mr. Robert Dudgeon Merchant in Dunske who sent the Box. I wrote Mr. Dobson about it, but still no Answer. It would be a favour if you would likewise enquire after this Box, & write me what you have done, as I can not get one Line from Mr. Dobson. I know that your Dealings in Bank Scrip, & Certificates, and the Operations of canvassing for the approaching Election must take up a great Deal of your Time, but I beg you would bestow a

a little Interval on the Concerns of a Person who does not know
to whom to apply. I inclose you a Note of a few Law Books, -
for my Son, which you will send by first Opportunity to me, and
I likewise want Dr. Reid's two last Publications, on on the Active
Powers of the Mind. I have forgot the Title of the other, but you
will find it in any News Paper or Catalogue. I hope you will ven-
ture to trust me, now when the Assembly have granted so much Money
to this College. As soon as I perceive the Effects of it, your Money
shall be sent you. I hope you will reprint the Abridgement of -
Dr. Sæffer's Works. I dare say Subscribers will be found. People
have not such an Aversion to buy good Books, as to read them
& to profit by them. But it is good that they should have them
in their hands. Give my Respectful Compliments to Mr. Anderson
when you see him, as also to Mr. Marshall, & tell him that I de-
pend on his Interest for forwarding the Publication. My Letters
from Scotland bring nothing favourable, Socinianism prevailing
in the Church, & Religion declining. I learn that after the Death
of Mr. Wesley, a circular Letter was sent to all his Churches, inti-
mating that he was carried to Paradise in a glorious Manner. He
was buried in his Gown & Band, which no Doubt was of as great
Use to him, as the Habit of St. Francis is to those pious Catholics
who order their Bodies to be buried in it, that they may be mis-
taken for Monks in the other World. a Pamphlet is published

in Scotland said to be written by a French Minister, representing
the Scotch Clergy as fanatical, ignorant & Enthusiastic, only ido-
lizing Robertson & Blair whom the Author supposes to be Deists
& that they would be affronted if they were taken for Calvinists. —
It is supposed to be written by Lord Sallan. I had heard before
that Lord Sallan was seven Eighths of an Idiot, & probably he has
written this Pamphlet to show that there was a Mistake of one
eighth in the Calculation. The Infurrection of the Negroes in Hispan-
iola is a terrible Affair, & may have serious Conse-
quences to this Country where there are so many Slaves
& where the Right of keeping them is considered as a
Badge of Freedom. I would be loth to hear of so many
poor Creatures massacred, tho' no Doubt it will be at-
tempted, by the Assistance of the Spaniards & the Sons
of Liberty in this Country. I can not deny indeed that this Mas-
sacre would promote the Interests of Liberty, because you know
when all the Slaves are butchered, none will remain but free-
Men. You will be so good as give the three inclosed Letters for
Scotland to Mr. John Hunter at Dr. Curson's, Front Street, to
convey to Edinburgh, with those which I have sent him already.
Let no time be lost, as he is just on sailing. I am,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.

Recd Oct. 5th

Carlisle 1st October, 1791.

Dear Sir,

You Citizens of Philadelphia are so great Men, that it is almost impossible for a poor Man in the Country to get you to answer one Letter. I am obliged to apply to you at present on two Affairs in which I am concerned. Last Year in August I sent a small Box, containing Potrefactions [?] & addressed to the Earl of Buchan, to the Care of Mr. Dobson, & having learned that the said Box was never sent to Greenock, I wrote a few Weeks ago to Mr. Dobson, intreating him to send it by the Ajax, Capt. Weir, now in your Harbour, but have got no Answer. David Rowan affirms that the Box was delivered to Mr. Dobson but Mr. Pagan, to whose Care it was directed, writes me that he never received it. It would be a great favour if you would enquire after this Box, & deliver it to Capt. Weir. I shall pay you the Freight with the greatest Chearfulness. Mr. Dobson received from London by the Apollo Capt Billings a small Box 18 Inches in Length, 10 in Breadth & 9 in Depth, directed to Mr. William Dudgeon, Monaghan Township, York County, to my Care. It was shipped at London 31st July 1790. But I only got Notice of it a Month ago by a Letter from Mr. Robert Dudgeon Merchant in Dunse who sent the Box. I wrote Mr. Dobson about it, but still no Answer. It would be a favour if you would likewise enquire after this Box, & write me what you have done, as I can not get one Line from Mr. Dobson. I know that your Dealings in Bank Scrip, & Certificates, and the Operations of canvassing for the approaching Election must take up a great Deal of your Time, but I beg you would bestow a

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a Little Interval on the Concerns of a Person who does not know to whom to apply. I inclose you a Note of a few Law Books, for my Son, which you will send by first Opportunity to me, and I likewise want Dr. Reid's two last Publications, on on the Active Power of the Mind. I have forgot the Title of the other, but you will find it in any News Paper or Catalogue. I hope you will venture to trust me, now when the Assembly have Granted so much Money to this College. As soon as I perceive the Effects of it, your Money shall be sent you. I hope you will reprint the abridgement of Dr. Prester's Works. I dare say Subscribers will be found. People have not such an Aversion to buy good Books, as to read them & to profit by them. But it is good that they should have them in their hands. Give my Respectful Compliments to Mr. Anderson when you see him, as also to Mr. Marshal, & tell him that I depend on his Interest for forwarding the Publication. My Letters from Scotland bring nothing favourable. Socinianism prevailing in the Church, & Religion declining. I learn that after the Death of Mr. Wesley, a circular Letter was sent to all his Churches, intimating that he was carried to Paradise in a glorious manner. He was buried in his Gown & Band, which no Doubt was of as great Use to him, as the Habit of St. Francis is to those pious Catholics who order their Bodies to be buried in it, that they may be mistaken for Monks in the other World. A Pamphlet is published

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Deists & that they would be affronted if they were taken for Calvinists. It is supposed to be written by Lord Salton. I had heard before that Lord Salton was seven Eights of an Idiot, & probably he has written this Pamphlet to show that there was a Mistake of one eighth in the Calculation. The Insurrection of the Negroes in Hispaniola is a terrible Affair, & may have serious Consequences to this Country where there are so many Slaves & where the Right of keeping them is considered as a Badge of Freedom. I would be sorry to hear of so many poor Creatures massacred, tho' no Doubt it will be attempted, by the Assistance of the Spaniards & the Sons of Liberty in this Country. I can not deny indeed that this Massacre would promote the Interests of Liberty, because you know when all the Slaves are butchered, none will remain but free Men. You will be so Good as give the three inclosed Letters for Scotland to Mr. John Hunter at Dr. Carson's Front Street, to convey to Edinburgh, with those which I have sent him already. Let no time be lost, as he is just on sailing. I am,

Dear Sir,
Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.

[In a different hand, One word illegible] Oct. 5th

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 23^d Nov. 1791.

I received yours of the 4th cur.^l by Mr. Alexander, with the Books, for which you will receive from the Bearer Mr. Snowden, the Sum of four Pounds four Shillings & Sixpence Currency, being the Sum in your Bill. I think it would be ridiculous for me to prefix any Recommendation to Dr. Reid's Works, as they do not need it. Besides I am neither known nor popular in this Country, so that my Recommendation would be an Hindrance to the Sale. An extract from Clarke's Lives would be much more to the Purpose. I think that Dr. Reid's Essays are highly worthy of Republication, as they cut the Nerves of modern Infidelity quite through, & expose in a fair and convincing Manner, the Absurdity & destructive Tendency of that false Philosophy which is now in Vogue, as well as the Stupidity, Hypocrisy, Selfishness & Maliquity of those Men who are commonly considered as Lights of the World & Instructors of Mankind. The only Danger is, lest the Publisher should not find his Account in it, as it requires more thought & Attention than the Generality of Readers among us are capable or willing to bestow. And when it is discovered to be an Attack on the fashionable Philosophy, probably the Infidels will do all in their Power to hurt the Sale of it. For altho' they pretend to be Enemies to Persecution, I assure you that they are violent Persecutors of all Opinions except their own. But as Dr. Reid has justly acquired a great Name, as an acute Philosopher & a fair and

able Disputant, & has never renounced his Principles, notwithstanding his long Connection with Lord Kaims, it is to be hoped that a large Edition of it may be sold with Success. And I should reckon such an Event to be a favourable Augury for our times, which as they have been spoil'd by false Philosophy, can only be mended by bringing back Mankind to sound Reason & Common Sense, & this is the main Scope of Dr. Reid's Publication. I can not advise you in a Matter of Trade, but I am convinced that the Republication of these Essays would be a good Work, & if read with Attention, might be a Mean of delivering many from the Darkness of Infidelity & Scepticism, especially such as do not know that Dr. Reid is a Presbyterian Minister. I know not what the English Reviewers have said of it, but they are generally on the Side of Infidelity, & their Opinion has great Weight with the Multitude. But whatever their Opinion is, I think that the Essays will be republished in this Country, & if you should decline it, some of the Printers of Boston or New York may attempt it. You may be able in some Measure to judge whether you ought to publish or not, by looking into the English Reviews & enquiring among your Customers how the Book is lik'd. after all I hope that the Name of the Author will ensure you the Sale of a large Edition, tho' not without Opposition from the Admirers of the New Philosophy. I am obliged to you for your Care of my Let-

ten, as the Ship in which Capt. Kitchie is concern'd, was to sail only on the 20th of this Month. Please enquire of Mr. Dobson whether he ever got any Answer from New York with Regard to the Box I sent to Lord Buchan, & let me know in your next. It is a Pity that you declined writing on the Subject of Toleration, which being much in fashion might have got you some Pence. The fashionable Writers ought to perfect their System, & to show the World how much it would be benefited by it. I hear that your Friend Dr. Rush is soon to publish an Essay in order to prove that those Diseases that arise from the Possession of Devils, are still prevalent in this Country. And if he only gives a faithful Narrative of his own Case, he will convince many People, that the Devil continues to possess & govern many Men at this Day, and that even the Confirmation of a Protestant Bishop is not always sufficient to dispossess him. Perhaps he may propose a new form of a Writ of Ejectment, to be served on Devils who have entered into Men, either forcibly or by Collusion, or he may have discovered a Medicine for that Purpose, to work upon the Will, tho' I rather think that his Plan will be to cure the Devil himself of his Malignity, & to qualify him for living peaceably & happily with his many good Friends, in the Heaven of Mr. Murray & the Universalists, when it shall be opened. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Cha. Nisbel.

Carlisle, 23d Novr. 1791.

Dear Sir,

I received yours of the 4th curt. by Mr. Alexander, with the Books, for which you will receive from the Bearer Mr. Snowdon, the Sum of four Pounds four Shillings, & Sixpence Currency, being the Sum in your Bill. I think it would be ridiculous for me to prefix any Recommendation to Dr. Preston's Works, as they do not need it. Besides I am neither known nor popular in this Country, so that my Recommendation would be an Hindrance to the Sale. An Extract from Clarke's Lives would be much more to the Purpose. I think that Dr. Reid's Essays are highly worthy of Republication, as they cut the Nerves of modern Infidelity quite through, & expose in a fair and convincing Manner, the Absurdity & destructive Tendency of that false Philosophy which is now in Vogue, as well as the Stupidity, Hypocrisy, Selfishness & Malignity of those Men who are commonly considered as Lights of the World & Instructors of Mankind. The only Danger is, lest the Publisher should not find his Account in it, as it requires more thought & Attention than the Generality of Readers among us are capable or willing to bestow. And when it is discovered to be an Attack on the fashionable Philosophy, probably the Infidels will do all in their Power to hurt the Sale of it. For altho' they pretend to be Enemies to Persecution, I assure you that they are violent Persecutors of all Opinions except their own. But as Dr. Reid has justly acquired a great Name, as an acute Philosopher & a fair and

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able Disputant, & has never renounced his Principles, notwithstanding his long Connection with Lord Kaimes, it is to be hoped that large Edition of it may be sold with Success. And I should reckon such an Event to be a favourable Augury for our times, which as they have been spoil'd by false Philosophy, can only be mended by bringing back Mankind to sound Reason & Common Sense, & this is the main Scope of Dr. Reid's Publication. I can not advise you in a Matter of Trade, but I am convinced that the Republication of these Essays would be a Good Work, & if read with Attention, might be a Mean of delivering many from the Darkness of Infidelity & Scepticism, especially such as do not know that Dr. Reid is a Presbyterian Minister. I know not what the English Reviewers have said of it, but they are Generally on the Side of Infidelity, & their Opinion has great Weight with the Multitude. But whatever their Opinion is, I think that the Essays will be republished in this Country, & if you should decline it, some of the Printers of Boston or New York may attempt it. You may be able in some Measure to judge whether you ought to publish or not, by looking into the English Reviews & enquiring among your Customers how the Book is lik'd. After all I hope that the Name of the Author will ensure you the Sale of a large Edition, tho' not without Opposition from the Admirers of the New Philosophy. I am obliged to you for your Care of my Let-

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ters, as the Ship in which Capt. Ritchie is concerned, was to sail only on the 20th of this Month. Please enquire of Mr. Dobson whether he ever got any answer from New York with Regard to the Box I sent to Lord Buchan, & let me know in your next. It is a Pity that you declined writing on the Subject of Toleration, which being much in fashion might have got you some Pence. The

fashionable Writers ought to perfect their System, & to show the World how much it would be benefited by it. I hear that your Friend Dr. Rush is soon to publish an Essay in order to prove that those Diseases that arise from the Possession of Devils, are still prevalent in this Country. And if he only gives a faithful Narrative of his own Case, he will convince many People, that the Devil continues to possess & govern many Men at this Day, and that even the Confirmation of a Protestant Bishop is not always sufficient to dispossess him. Perhaps he may propose a new form of a Writ of Ejectment, to be served on Devils who have entered into Men, either forcibly or by Collusion, or he may have discovered a Medicine for that Purpose, to work upon the Will, tho' I rather think that his Plan will be to cure the Devil himself of his Malignity, & to qualify him for living peaceably & happily with his many good Friends, in the Heaven of Mr. Murray & the Universalists, when it shall be opened. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir,
Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.