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

Date: 1790-1791

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Contact:

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I received your with alkinion's Kepats this Day & am long that I can not land you the Money. I am alway, apaid of adding to the laitures you mention, as our Impecs behave like Bankneph, & I must pland or tall, as they please. The Profile of last loop to not appear to have made the People either more honest or more grateful to Providence. Adverty may another those who single Shul Lellan & too double ones, to be bransportled to Europe in the latell Manner that you can find. I am obliged to you for the law you have laken of those that were lend by Mr. Marshal, & hope you will be not less careful with Refuel to those now lent. I beg that you would keep it ascered that you receive any Letters from me, as I have many Realow, to proposed that not a few of my Letters have been intercepted by the Malice of a vile Octonal Enemy, & not buffered to go on to Europe. Mr. Dolfon has been careful enough, but as he is obliged to lend his Boy to the -Post Office I know not what Influence may be used to make him keep back Letter, unknown to his Mapler. I must therefore beg the lavour of your conveying the inclosed in a cardieur Manner, not that there are any Search in them, but because I with them to be conveyed to my Friend, & not Hoppid by the Way, as not a few of mine have been before. I almost never worke any dellar that I might not have published in the Mover papers, except me, ~ which by the Batenets of the Beaver, was actually published in them. I am lots there is no Penalty on opening detten here, & I heard a Gentleman a few Days ago consching that he had broke up a Letter at the Post Office here, & laken a long of it. This is diberty with a Vengeance, & the Pollmatten it feem per. mil it. Mon do not mention in your deller whether you enquired for the Parcel at Robert alkin's, addreped logme, which I faw, when last in your lity I with you could get it conveyed here by first Waggen. I am long that you did not wifit this Place as you intended. I thould have been glad to bee you, as we have to low Vililon that we can call Friends. I hope that the lailures you freak of have not hurl you. & that endeavour to add to the Humber, but I have fellow received as much at a lime, as the Sum in your last Accomple They talk of giving me tome Many form, which if I exceive. I that fend you by the first Person I can

louth, unless you thould come former yourself. But there is no relying on Promises in this Country, as no Body is in the least aframed to break their Nord. Mr. anderson made me a lall last Neck & I hope to be him again, before he leaves this Place. A Scolch Man left with me a few Days, a Manufcript of Sermons by Mr. Samuel Kutherford which he intends to publish, but I advised him to tall it to you, & promited to hang. cribe it for the Befo, as he will poil the Sale of it, if he does what he inlends - that is if he employs some Ministers in Wellmoreland where he Vives to aller the Scalch Words, & lakes the Nork of transcribing upon himself, which I am apaid he is not equal to. I have no Tout that the Sermons are genuine, I wen suppose that the Manuferial is in the hand-writing of the Author, as the Greek Words that are quoted, are written in their proper Characters; Bed I know not how thefe Sermons which are in the Style of Mr. Rutherford; Letters, would be received in the prefent age, especially in this learning where there are to few who understand either the Scotch Dialect, or the Language of finious Religion. & many might vidicule both the Style of the Matter. The Sermons were bought from Dr. Clark, an old Mini-Her of the Secchion, whom perhaps you know. I hear little from Scotland, and am Hill afraid of hearing lele, as many of my longposedents are Michen in years. Il the Beaux were not just going away. I would have bransoribed a low Sentences from the Sermons, to convince you that they are genuine, but perhaps you have been them before. I thank you for the line lopy of Mr. Gibl', lonlers. plations, which you fast me by Mr. Jail. It will enable me to lend out the other more beely to some that have Reed, but there are sow here that read religious -Books, & lever that know how to give back my Book that they borrow. There were about fifty Sulfcriben for Mr. Gib', Nork in this Place & Maighbourhood, but I am apaid that low of them have read it. It not many have paid for their lopies, & I can not conceive how People thould expect to get good by a Book that they will not pay for, or give back to the Owner. But the Ocople here are as ridsentous in other Points, as they expect to get good by their Ministen, the they selden either pay them or hear them. Nithing you all Happinch. I am with Eleem,

Dear Sir,

Maur very humble Servant

Cha: Nisbel

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 or 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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trust, 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. Samul Rutherford which he intends to publish, but I advised him to sell it to you, & promised to transcribe it for the Press, as he will spoil the sale of it, if he does what he intends, that is if he employs 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 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,

and 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 stricken in Years. If the Bearer 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 Mr. Gibb's Contemplations, which you sent me by me Mr. Tait. 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 Mr. Gib's Work 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

Chas. Nisbet.

Dear Sir,

I had no Exception to taking in & encouraging your Magazine, providing that it contained nothing contrary; lo Religion & good Meralo. I can bear harmles Montente as well as another, & could wen overlook the Scare wen Figures of Boys and loolith Maxim, of Gefficulation with which it was formelines Muffed, but lince it appears by your August Humber that it is to be a Vehicle of Infidelity, Blafshemy, & Ribaldry, I can not in lon leience encourage it any buther, or have any thing more to do with, il. & think that every Perfen who regard, Keligien & Morality ought to do the like, It was indeed needless to fend my long, but you need not hauble yourless to kind my Son', either, as he is gone lo live at Millin, with which there is no lommunication from this Place except once a Quarter. And I would not with him to read Books that call adultery, Fornication, Dounhenness & Dithonefly "the innocent Intimities of human Maluse, and which regretents an ignerant Luack as wifer than Solomon & the Moly Spirit. There are enow to encourage thele wile Opi nions. Ma' Minillers & Problem of the Unillian Religions -

give their Jellimony against them. I with well to the Sale of all good Books & Franghlels, but when a public bellection becomes bilerally an applum; into which all Intidels & Black. quards may enter at Pleasure, & nour loth their Venem against Religion & Learning, I can not have any loncern with it nor lufter my Unildren or my Pupils to look into it, you may charge both lopies to my account, to lar as received, but I do not with to hear any more of them. I hoped to have paid you before this, lime what I have been to long due you, I had a Dumile hom the Tenters of more than two Mundered Pound, of my armens, but as thele Gentlemen perform their Promites only with Ameri ean Faith, & I hypole lome of your Scoundrel authors have neworld the Gentleman who was to have paid his Subferintion. I must go without it for the liene. As foon as I can get any Money , your account that be paid, for which Purpok you may land a lopy of it with Mr. Alexander the Bearer on his Relum I think that it is busting a Publication to allow every Scoren Ised to mel his fill unto it, but you have got other thought & aught not to be himsiked it every Owlen of good Sente & Character Mentel give up your Magazine. There are ~

Will a ken here & there who love good things, & would with to be them in Print, but I can not conceive a more halful Character than that of a Publisher of Blaphemy & Inhidelity, as he does the greatest Injury that can be done by Men, I mean that of wounting their Principles, & polluling their Imagination, to those that have done him no Wrong, Il Salan were to keep a Printer, I do not think that he wented be other. wife employed than most of them are with us the in lodening the Bond, of Merality, & adding Fuel to the lasts of Men. I am, Sincerely,

Sir, Nour well wither

& humble Servant,

Cha. Wisbel.

Carlisle, 30th Septr. 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.

Dear Sir,

The Bearer is a French Boy, who with poural others has become weary of remaining at their settlement on the River Sciotto, & is disposed to folle at Philadelphia, in hopes of finding forme Employment or Service there that might be more to his liking. He has a regular Papport to know, and applied to me for Direction. I have taken the Liberty to recommend him to you, that you may introduce him to forme of his own Motion, or to any that may be of the of thein. Dr. Rop, who is much convertant with foreigners, may be of the to you in this Matter. I am, in hafte,

Pear Sin,
Mous, Esc.
Chai Mibel

The state of the s

Carlisle, 5th Septr. 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.

you litizens of Philadelphia are to great Men. Mal it is al. most impossible for a poor Man in the Country to get you to unsuer one deller. I am obliged to apply to you at prefent on two affairs in which I am concerned. Lass year in August I feal a small Box, con laining Odrefactions & addreper to the Earl of Buchan, to the lane of Mr. Dolfon, & having learned that the faid Box was never fent to Granach. I mole a low Week, ago to Mr. Dobfon, intreding him to land it by the ajax, Capit Wir, new in your Harbour, but have got no Anpuer . David Rowan affirm, that the Box was delivered to Mr Doblan but Mr. Pagan, to whole law it was directed writes use that he never received it. It would be a great favour if you would enquire after this Box. & deliver it to lapt. Weir. I that pay you the Freight with the qualift Chearfulucts. Mr Dobjen received from London by the apollo Capil Billings a fenall Box 18 Inthe in Length. 10 in Breadth & q in Depth directed to Mr. William Dudgeen, Monaghan Jewen Thin, york County, to my Case, It was thippid at London 31st July 1790. But I only got Notice of it a Month ago by a deller from Mr. Robert Dudgeen Merchant in Dunk who fent the Box. I wrote Mr. Dolfen about it, but flill no answer. It would be a lavour il you would lihewile enquire after this Box, & write me what you have done, as I can not get one dine from Mr. Dobfen. I know that your Dealings in Bank Scripp, & ledificales, and the Operations of canvapring for the approaching Election must take up a goal Deal of your Time, but I beg you would before a

a dille Interval in the Concerns of a Perfer who does not know to whom to apply. I inclose you a Mole of a low Law Books, for my Son, which you will land by light Opperlunity to me, and I likewife want Dr. Roid's two last Publications, on on the Adiac Power of the Mind. I have longed the Till of the other, but you will find it in any News Paper or labalogue. I hope you will ven. here to half me, now when the affembly have granted to much Money to this College. As foon as I perceive the Effects of it, your Mency that be feel you. I have you will reprint the abridgement of -Dr. Pretter's Works. I dans lay Subjection will be found. People have not puch an avertien to buy good Books as to read them & to probit by them. But it is good that they thould have them in their hands . Give my Reprobled Compliments to Mr. and ofen when you fee him, as also to Mr. Marthal, & Ill him that I de. pand on his Interest for lowering the Publication. My Lotters from Scotland bring nothing favourable, Socinianifus prevailing in the Church, & Religion declining. I ham that after the Deally of Mr. Wesley, a circular Letter was land to all his Churches, inti. maling that he was carried to Paradife in a glorious Mauner. He was buried in his your & Band, which no Doubt was of as qual Use to him, as the Mabil of St. Francis is to those pieces Catholies who order their Bodies to be busied in it. that they may be mit lahon for Monks in the other World. a Parophlet is published

in Scotland faid to be written by a French Minister, preferring the Scotch Clergy as functical, ignerant & Enthuliable, only ido lifting Robertson & Blair when the author supposes to be Deith & that they were to be afformled if they were taken for laborists . -Il is suppoked to be written by dard Sallon. I had heard before Mal Lord Saller was leven Eight of an I did, & probably he has willow this Campbel to thow that there was a Millate of one eighth in the Calculation. The Inturnation of the Megases in Wifna niola is a lemible Affair, & may have fuices longe. quences to this Country where there are to many Slower & where the Right of keeping them is contidened as a Badge of Freedom. I would be long to hear of lamany now breakurs maffacered, the no Doubt it will be at. lumpled, by the affiliance of the Spaniands & the Sons of Liberty in this Country. I can not dany indeed that this May. lacre would promote the Interests of Liberty, because you know when all the Slaves are butchered, none will remain but free-Men. You will be to good as give the three inclosed Livers for Scotland to Mr. Mohen Muster at Dr. Carlos : Front Sheet, to convey to Edinburgh, with those which I have lent him already. Let no line be loft, as he is just on lating, I am,

hus ook of the Cha. "Nisbel.

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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in Scotland said to be written by a French Minister, presenting the Scotch Clergy as fanatical, ignorant & En-thusiastic, only idolising 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 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,

I received yours of the 4th cur! by Mr. Alexander, with the Books, for which you will receive from the Beaver Mr. Inowdon, the Sum of low Pounds low Shillings & Sixpence Currency, being the Sum in your Bill: I think it would be ridiculous for me to prefix any Recommendation to Dr. Preflow; Norths, as they do not need il. Befides I am neither known nor popular in this lountry, to that my Recommendation would be an Windrance to the Sale. An Extract home Clarke's Lives would be much more to the Purpose. I think that Dr. Reid's Effays are highly worthy of Republication, as they cut the Merves of modern Infidelity quite through, & expose in a fair and convincing Manner, the Abfurdity & definitive Jendency of that falle Philosophy which is now in Voque, as well as the Shepidily, Mypoeri. 14. Tellithuds & Malignity of those Men who are commonly consider. ed as Light of the Norld & Infruedon 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 beflow. And when it is discovered to be an allack on the taphionable Philosophy probably the Infidelo will do all in their Cower to hart the Sale of il. For altho' they prelend to be Enemies to Orfeculion, I afture you that they are violent Ocofe. culon of all minious except their own . But as Dr. Reid hus just. ly acquired a great Name, as an aprile Philosopher & a fair and

able Dipulant, & has never renounced his Principles, notwithfland ing his long Connection with Lord Haims . it is to be hoped that a large Edition of it may be fold with Succep. and I thould recken Juch an Event to be a favourable Augury for our lines, which as they have been poil'd by falle Philosophy, can only be mended by bringing back Mankind to found Reafon & Common Senfe, & this is the main Scope of Dr. Reid's Oublication. I can not ad. vife you in a Maller of Trade, but I am convinced that the Repub. lication of these Estays would be a good Work, & it read with allen. tion, might be a Mean of delivering many hom the Darkness of Infidelity & Scepticifm, especially luch as do not know that Dr. Reid is a Prestylerian Minister. I know not what the English Re. viewer have faid of it, but they are generally on the Side of Infide. lily, & their Opinian has great Weight with the Mullitude. But whatever their Opinion is . I think that the Effays will be sepub. lithed in this Country. & if you thould decline it . lome of the Orinless of Botton or New York may alternal 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 bufomens how the Book is lik'd. after all I hope that the Hame of the Author will enforce you the Sale of a large Edition, the not without Opposition from the Admi. ren of the Ken Philosophy. I am obliged to you for your land my Lot-

len , as the Ship in which lapl . Ribelie is concerned , was to fail only on the 20th of this Mouth. Olege enquire of Mr. Dobfon whether he ever got any Aupror from New York with Regard to the Box I fant to Lord Buchan, & let me know in your next. It is a City that you declined writing on the Subject of Boleration, which being much in fathices might have got you some Pence. The Sathionable Writen ought to perfect their Sythem, K to show the World how much it would be benefited by it. I hear that your Friend Dir. Ruft is loon to publish an Estay in order la resure that those Difeates that arise from the Pollepino of Devils, are Hill pocuations in this Country. and if he only gives a faithful Marralive of his own late, he will convince many People, that the Devit continues to polles & govern many Men at this Day, and that even the Confirmation of a Protestant Bishop is not always sufficient to disposses him. Our haps he may propose e new form of a Wirl of Ejechment, to be ferved on Devils who have entered into Men, either forcibly or by Collegion, or he may he discovered a Medicine for that Purpose, to work upon the Will, the I rother think that his Plan will be to cure the Devil himself of his Mlignity, & to qualify him for living peaceably & happily with his ma ny good Friends. in the Meaven of Mr. Murray & the Universaliths. when it that be opened. I am, with Effects,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Scroonl,

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 Kaims, 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.