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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Charles Nisbet to William Young, 1796-99

**Date:** 1796-1799

**Location:** MC 2001.5, B1, F9-11

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
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Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1796.

I was favoured with yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst by Mr. Inzie, I would have writ you before I received it, had it not been for the sorrow & Agitations of my Mind, both on the Subject of yours & others. You must have observed with what Aversion, Difficulty & Hesitation I spoke to you of my Son's Conduct & Resolutions which were dictated to him by his Companions. What gave me the greatest Pain was, lest you should think that he came away with my Consent, because he came with me, but I hope that the Knowledge you have of my Inclinations with regard to him will clear me of any Suspicion of that kind. I did not know that this time of the Year was a throng one with you, but promised to allow him a short Recap in the hottest of the Weather, by which I told you I meant the Month of August, tho' he wish'd to understand it differently. I am extremely sorry for his Conduct towards you, & can offer no Excuse for it. Had he followed my Advice, he would never have talked of his Situation to his Companions, but if he had any Complaint, to have mentioned it to you or me, but I find that great Harm ensues from the Meetings of young Men, in which they relate their several Situations, & compare them with each other. The Circumstance of your removing to the Country, & the Arrival of Somervel seem to have made the first Alteration in his Sentiments, tho' of all his Complaints I thought none was of so much Importance, as that he was obliged to sleep in the same Room with seven other people, by which his health was endangered. This indeed I thought a serious Matter, as I should have thought it a bad Regulation, even in the Jail of Philadelphia, or the Battering House, but I told him that he ought to have mentioned it to you, & to have refused to submit to it from the Beginning, which it seems he did not. Neither you nor I would chuse to subscribe to all the Doctrines of our Friend Dr. Rush, but I was much pleased with a Remark that he made in my last Calling on him, viz. that a great many Inconveniences & even many Immoralities resulted from the Practice of allowing several young People to sleep in the same Room, in bed, together, & tho' I had heard of many such in my younger Days, & approved of the Practice of some of my friends, who positively prohibited it in their own families, I confess that the Observation seemed new to me at the time. But if Dr. Rush had considered the Matter merely with respect to health, I am sure he would condemn the Practice of laying eight People in four Beds in the same Room, especially in this hot Climate, & in a City where the Houses are so spacious & roomy as they are in Philadelphia. I know that many People pay little regard to the feelings, & even to the Interests of young People, but I was sure that this was not the Case with you, only I mention this Circumstance to show that your Removal from the City — proved a very serious Matter to him in one respect at least. I wish'd him to be attached by Inclination to you & your house, & thought that Matters were in a fair Way to that End, till the Change in your Residence took place. At the same time I am sensible that the Suggestions of Somervel & his Situation with Mr. Dobson made very ill Impressions, & excited Complaints & Uneasiness. My Son erroneously supposed that he was distinguished from others whom you con-

ployed, on account of your not having made a formal Bargain with him. I told him that this Circumstance indeed made a Distinction, but that the Effect of it ought to be, that both Parties ought to behave with Confidence, Friendship & Generosity to each other, that neither of them might have Cause to regret the Want of a formal Agreement. But you know how apt young People are to justify themselves, & to lay the Blame on others. I have talked with him seriously on this head, but with very little Effect, as young People now-a-days begin very early to think themselves wiser than their Parents, especially when their Whims are encouraged by their Companions. I believe that all my Son's Complaints of his Treatment would not have led him to come away, nor even to have any thoughts of it, had it not been for the insidious Suggestions of Somervel, who perhaps from Motives of Attachment, Country or Similarity of Inclinations, seems to have wish'd to carry him off along with him. What he mention'd with Regard to the Nature of your Business, as having lately run mostly into the Stationary Line, I thought not of much Importance, tho' it seem'd specious at first, & was no doubt suggest'd by some of his Companions, but altho' I had thought it of as much Importance as he seem'd to do, I would not have wish'd him to make any Alteration in his Situation without your Knowledge Advice and Concurrence, & would have wish'd it might seem to be your Act & not his. I readily allow that you have not acted from lucrative Motives in this Affair, as from the Bottom I declar'd my Willingness to subscribe to any Agreement which you thought reasonable, providing that I was able to perform it. What Alteration the Assumption of two Partners may make in your Affairs, with Respect to those People that you may chuse to employ, or the Nature of your Business in general, it is impossible for me to say, but as I am sure that he made no Agreement with them, direct or indirect, a new Arrangement would I think have been necessary at any Rate. And such a one, I think, might still be made, if he could be brought to a proper Sense of his Interest. I have often told him that it is the worst thing in the World for a young Man, when he breaks his first Connections, as the like will naturally be expected in all those that he may form afterwards, & that the Acquisition of a Habit of Industry & of the Knowledge of Business & Mankind, is of more Consequence to a young Man than all the Luxuries & Indulgences that he can enjoy in the mean time. But what avails speaking to those who think themselves wiser than the Speaker? I wish'd him to have you for his friend, even when he was no longer in your Employment, & hope that something of this may yet take place, notwithstanding what has happened, which you justly ascribe to foreign Influence. I am glad that you say that it will make no Alteration in your Friendship to me, & I am so far from complaining, that if I had

another Son fit for the Busin<sup>ess</sup>, I would ask it as a favour that you would take him under your care, only perhaps I would wish to have him bound by a formal written Agreement. I send you this by Mr. Addison, with two Letters for Great Britain & one for Jamaica, which I beg you to take the trouble of forwarding by first Opportunity. I send you likewise a valuable Pamphlet, translated from the Low Dutch, on the Divinity of Christ, which, if you please, I think you ought to re-publish. It would be an excellent Antidote to the Poison of Priestley's Doctrines, with which many begin to be infected. Dr. Erskine sent me five Copies, to give away, I sent one of them to Mr. Anderson by Mr. Inric. I could get it republished in this Place, but that is too small a Circle for so valuable & necessary a Publication. At the same time I am persuaded that it would sell at present, if republished in Philadelphia. I have seldom seen so much solid Argument, & such pertinent Applications of the Scriptures, comprised in so small a Space. I persuade myself that you will like it on several, unless the disagreeable Light in which the Person who sends it, must stand with you at present, should give you a worse Opinion of it. If you should not think it advisable to republish it, I have reserved another Copy, to send to New York, & to request my Friend Mr. Miller to endeavour to get it republished in that City. It is but little that we can do for the Service of God & Religion in this degenerate Age, but we ought not to grudge the little that is in our Power.

My Difficulties are many, & the low State to which they reduce my Mind renders me very unfit for Action of almost any kind, but I have no Person to whom I can freely communicate my thoughts. I need the Oily & Prayers of God's People. While the Enemy is coming in like a flood, it is Oily that there are so few to stand in the Gap, or to pray that the Spirit of the Lord may raise up a Standard against them. The Concurrence of private & public Distresses oppress my Mind more than I can express. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant

Cha. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 25th June, 1796.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 16th curt. by Mr. Imrie. I would have writ you before I received it, had it not been for the Sorrow & Agitation of my Mind, both on the Subject of yours & others. You must have observed with what Aversion, Difficulty & Hesitation I spoke to you of my Son's Conduct & Resolutions which were dictated to him by his Companions. What gave me the greatest Pain was, lest you should think that he came away with my Consent, because he came with me, but I hope that the Knowledge you have of my Intentions with Regard to him will clear me of any Suspicion of that kind. I did not know that this time of the Year was a strong one with you, but promised to allow him a short Recess in the hottest of the Weather, by which I told you. I meant the Month of August, tho' he wish'd to understand differently. I am extremely sorry for his Conduct towards you, & can offer no Excuse for it. Had he followed my Advice, he would never have talked of his Situation to his Companions, but if he had any Complaint, to have mentioned it to you or me, but I find that great Harm ensues from the Meetings of young Men, in which they relate their Several Situations, & compare them with each other. The Circumstance of your removing to the Country, & the Arrival of Somerset seem to have made the first Alteration in his Sentiments, tho' of all his Complaints I thought none was of so much Importance, as that he was obliged to sleep in the same Room with Seven other people, by which his health was endangered. This indeed I thought a serious Matter, as I should have thought it a bad Regulation, even in the Jail of Philadelphia, or the Bettering House, but I told him that he ought to have mentioned it to you, & to have refused to submit to it from the Beginning, which it seems he did not. Neither you nor I would chuse to subscribe to all the Doctrines of our Friend Dr. Rush, but I was much pleased with a Remark that he made in my last Calling on him, viz. that a great many Inconveniencies & even many Immoralities resulted from the Practice of allowing several young People to sleep in the same Room, or bed, together, & tho' I had heard of many such in my younger Days, & approved of the Practice of some of my friends, who positively prohibited it, in their own families, I confess that the Observation seemed new to me at the time. But if Dr. Rush had considered the Matter merely with Respect to health, I am sure he would condemn the Practice of laying eight People in four Beds in the same Room, especially in this hot Climate, & in a City where the Houses are so spacious & roomy as they are in Philadelphia. I know that many People pay little regard to the feelings, & even to the Interests of young People, but I was sure that this was not the Case with you, only I mention this Circumstance to show that your Removal from the City proved a very serious Matter to him in one Respect at least. I wished him to be attached by Inclination to you & your house, & thought that Matters were in a fair Way to that End, till the Change in your Residence took place. At the same time I am sensible that the Suggestions of Somerset & his Situation with Mr. Dobson made very ill Impressions, & excited Complaints & Uneasiness. My Son erroneously supposed that he was distinguished from others whom you em-

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Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1796.

I was sorry to hear lately, that you had been afflicted with a bilious fever, tho' the same Letter mentioned that you were in the Way of Recovery. I have heard very opposite Accounts of the Health of your Citizens, as some affirm that they are uncommonly healthy, while others affirm that bad fevers prevail, especially in the Skirts of the City. You know I am not very fond of obtruding Advice on any body, but I have some Suspicion that the Situation of your Country House among Brick Pitts & Standing Waters has been hurtful to your health. I had a Suspicion of this kind the first time that I saw it, & would be sorry to have my Suspicion confirmed by the Sickness of any other of your family. I thought that the Situation of your house in the City was much more healthy than that of your Country house. I ask Pardon for this Observation, tho' I could not avoid making it at the time. I have accidentally discovered that Somersel was not the Person who turned my Son's head, by suggesting the foolish Project of going to the East Indies. But some other Person must have done it, whom I can not discover & it seems to have taken very deep Root, so it seems not to be yet quite out of his head, tho' I have given him to understand that I will give him no Support or Encouragement in it. We must all have our trials & Sorrows in the World, tho' mine have arisen from very unexpected Causes, but we have no Choice in our trials, & ought to bear whatever God sends us. I am often tempted to ask why it is thus with me, & to imagine that I could have borne other Trials better, but all such Imaginations are sinful. I find it better to compare my Trials with those of many worthy Christians & Saints of God, & then I am ashamed to complain of them. But it is hard after all, to get the Back filled to the Burden. I have observed with Pleasure that you are republishing Bishop Watson's Answer to Thomas Paine, tho' I think it is too mild a Reply to so ferocious a Writer. And I hope that Peter Porcupine will yet take it in hand, when he is done with dispatching his present Advantages. And this I hope will give him little trouble, & rather promote his Interest, by enabling him to sell his Answer. I have read the Imposter delected, & think it is a very weak Performance, & I am told that the other Writings against him are rather weaker, if possible. Lang & Uffie have proposed to publish Mr. Nalyburton's Work against the Deists by Subscription. But I find I am wrong. I mean that they have published Dr. Sibbes's Meditations, a most useful & excellent Work. I believe it is Mr. Hoggan who has proposed to publish Nalyburton. Many in this Place have subscribed for it, & I have joined my Subscription to the rest. I wish I could promote a Subscription among all the Professors of Christianity in this Country, I mean not to ask any of their Money, but merely that they would resolve



never to bestow one farthing on any Infidel Publication. We complain of the Growth of Infidelity, and at the same time we contribute largely to it, by encouraging the Publication of Infidel Books & Pamphlets. If the Sale of Paine's Pamphlets for Instance, had been confined to profess'd Infidels, his Booksellers would not have been encouraged to advertise a New Edition of them, as Mr. Bache is doing at present. I would be glad if it were in my Power to buy many more good Books than I do, & to encourage the Republication of good things that have been published abroad, but I will never give a single Shilling for an Infidel Publication. And if others would agree in the same Resolution, which I think they might do safely, the Public would not be pestered with so many of them. What shall we say of those Printers & Booksellers who profess Christianity, & at the same encourage the Publication of the Works of its Enemies? The Trade of writing Books, in the Way that it is managed at present, is become a most dangerous & pernicious Manufacture. The Adversary of Peter Savoyne is a profess'd Deist & I am afraid that the Encouragement that Paine's Pamphlets have met with among us, will give us many Writers of the same Stamp. The Scurrility & Blasphemy of Paine is faithfully copied by his Disciples. Our Democrats are full of Joy on the Successes of the French in Italy & Germany, tho' I do not hear that their Share of the Booty is yet arrived. They wish to see the French plunder all the World, America itself not excepted. Had our Papers have never informed us of any Meeting of your Democratic Merchants being called, for writing a Letter of Thanks to the French Directory, for the friendly & fraternal Notice that they have been pleased to take of Americans, by capturing their Vessels in the West Indies. They will no Doubt think that the French do them too much Honour, in laying hold of their Property for the Support of the Cause of Liberty & Equality. But I am afraid that they will rather blame Mr. Jay, & the Treaty with Great Britain, for all the Losses that they may suffer from the French. Peace appears as yet to be as far distant as ever, tho' it is still talked of. The present French Anarchy are certainly averse to Peace, as it would overturn their Power at once, & set up a Military Aristocracy in their Stead, but they dare not say so to the People, who I believe are heartily wearied of the War, & a few Defeats, well-timed, might bring their Armies into the same Predicament. Light may yet shine out of Darkness, altho' we know not when, or by what means. The Divisions of France may be the Preservation of Great Britain & America. - Things will not always run on in

the same Direction, & the Democrats must sooner or later scour one another. For as Sin is a Principle of Division & Enmity, the Union of evil Doers can at most be but temporary & accidental. Different Parties have already devoured each other in Succession, & the Party that is now in Power declares that it is already sensible of a Reaction. Your Democrats are no doubt convinced by Paine's last Pamphlet, that the finances of Great Britain are perfectly exhausted, & that Mr. Pitt can not command a single Guinea. Yet I observe by your Papers, & by the Writers against Porcupine, that he bestows Millions on the exclusive Patriots of France, & maintains a vast Number of Agents in this Country, that he pays Peter Porcupine's Shop Rent, & has purchased a Stock in Trade for him. Now altho' most of your Democrats are Infidels, I think they can not be truly said to be Unbelievers, as they possess the Talent of believing Contradictions. Our Ambassador at Paris, tho' a zealous Democrat, does not seem to give Contest to the French Directory. I hope Mr. Randolph will be sent in his Place, which will give him an Opportunity of settling Accounts with Mr. Fauchet, & procuring some Information to the Flour Merchants who extended themselves so much in the Service of the public at the time of the Western Insurrection. Mr. Morris has perhaps adventured to complain of the Conduct of the French in fraternizing with our Vessels, but the French will give him to understand that passive Obedience & Non-resistance are indispensable Qualities in a Republican. His Successor must be taught Humility, before he sets out to take Possession of his Office. Mr. Pitt has got thro' the Elections with Honour, & has with added five more Members to his Majority. The Democrat Candidates, I hear, were generally hissed. Grain is still cheaper in Europe, than it is in America, which not only occasions Speculation, but is supposed to be occasioned by Speculation. The Land jobbers have got a large field opened in the West, & the Legislatures are endeavouring to come in for a Part of the Profits of the Jobbing Trade. Multitudes are expected to flock to the New Settlements, which will depopulate many of the Central Parts of the State, as none have any People to spare. I give you the trouble of Three foreign Letters, one of them for a poor Widow in this Neighbourhood, & one for Mr. Marshall. I hope you received my last by Mr. McAllister. We are in ordinary Health, but my Wife is still tender. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir, your very humble Servant  
Cha. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 15th Sepr. 1796.

Dear Sir,

I was sorry to hear lately, that you had been afflicted with a bilious fever, tho' the same Letter mentioned that you were in the Way of Recovery. I have heard very opposite Accounts of the Health of your Citizens, as some affirm that they are uncommonly healthy, while others affirm that bad fevers prevail, especially in the Skirts of the City. You know I am not very fond of obtruding Advice on any body, but I have some Suspicions that the Situation of your Country house among Brick Pits & standing Waters has been hurtful to your health. I had a Suspicion of this Kind the first time that I saw it, & would be sorry to have my Suspicion confirmed by the Sickness of any other of your family. I thought that the Situation of your house in the City was much more healthy than that of your Country house. I ask Pardon for this Observation, tho' I could not avoid making it at the time. I have accidentally discovered that Somerset was not the Person who turned my Son's head, by suggesting the foolish Project of going to the East Indies. But some other Person must have done it, whom I can not discover & it seems to have taken very deep Root, as it seems not to be yet quite out of his head, tho' I have given him to understand that I will give him no Support or Encouragement in it. We must all have our trials & Sorrows in the World, tho' mine have arisen from very unexpected Causes, but we have no Choice in our trials, & ought to bear whatever God sends us. I am often tempted to ask why it is thus with me, & to imagine that I could have borne other Trials better, but all such Imaginations are sinful. I find it better to compare my Trials with those of many worthy Christians & Saints of God, & then I am ashamed to complain of them. But it is hard after all, to get the Back fitted to the Burden. I have observed with Pleasure that you are republishing Bishop Watson's Answer to Thomas Paine, tho' I think it is too mild a Reply to so scurrilous a Writer. And I hope that Peter Porcupine will yet take it in hand, when he is done with dispatching his present Adversaries. And this I hope will give him little trouble, & rather promote his Interest, by enabling him to sell his Answers. I have read the Imposter detected, & think it is a very weak Performance, & I am told that the other Writings against him are rather weaker, if possible. Lang & Ullic have proposed to publish Mr. Halyburton's Work against the Deists by Subscription. But I find I am wrong. I mean that they have published Dr. Sibbes's Meditations, a most useful & excellent Work. I believe it is Mr. Hoggan who has proposed to publish Halyburton. Many in this Place have subscribed for it, & I have joined my Subscription to the rest. I wish I could promote a Subscription among all the Professors of Christianity in this Country. I mean not to ask any of their Money, but merely that they would resolve

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Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1796.

I know not whether my Affliction with Regard to my Son is in the Way of ending or not. I had given him to understand positively that I would give no Encouragement to his Design of going to the East Indies, when he received a Letter from Somersel his old Companion, telling him of two Places that were then vacant, one in Mr. Rice's Store, & another in Mr. Dobson's, telling him that he had Mr. Dobson's Allowance to write him, & urging him to come down immediately without losing time, but as he had written to Mr. Turnbull, I suppose, in view of going abroad, he waited two Weeks for an Answer, when we heard that Mr. Turnbull was dangerously ill of a fever. This Letter was dated the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.<sup>r</sup> & we have not heard of him since. I fear to hear bad Accounts of Mr. Turnbull, & that my Son has left both the Places that were mentioned to him by his Delay. Whether this is so or not, I can not tell. I am in so deep Affliction & Anxiety, that I can write no further. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 1st October, 1796.

Dear Sir,

I know not whether my Affliction with Regard to my Son is in the Way of ending or not. I had given him to understand positively that I would give no Encouragement to his Design of going to the East Indies, when He received a Letter from Somerset his old Companion, telling him of two Places that were then vacant, one in Mr. Rice's Store, & another in Mr. Dobson's, telling him that he had Mr. Dobson's Allowance to write him, & urging him to come down immediately without losing time, but as he had written to Mr. Turnbull, I suppose, in view of going abroad, he waited two Weeks for an Answer, when we heard that Mr. Turnbull was dangerously ill of a fever. This Letter was dated the 16th Septr. & we have not heard of him since. I fear to hear bad Accounts of Mr. Turnbull, & that my Son has lost both the Places that were mentioned to him by his Delay. Whether this is so or not, I can not tell. I am in so deep Affliction & Anxiety, that I can write no further. I am, with Esteem,

Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet

Carlisle, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> March only yesterday, & it seems that you were not at <sup>that</sup> time informed of the unsuccessful Attempt of the French upon Ireland, which is now put beyond a Doubt, tho' we are not yet informed of all its Consequences. I know of Lord Malmesbury's Dismission, long before he set out in his Journey to Paris, tho' I think it is happy for Great Britain that he was dismissed, as I think that nothing could be more fatal to Britain, nor to the World in general than a Peace with France in its present overgrown State. You are in a great Mistake when you imagine that I am at the head of the popular Party here, for altho' it is true that Peter Porcupine's Principles are more favoured here than of late, & that his Paper has found some Subscribers, yet your humble Servant was never less popular, nor more insulted & abused by the Scum of Ireland than at present. This Seminary is weak but some of those concerned in it would wish that it were still weaker, in order to lay the Blame on me, & to persuade the Public that Parents were apprehensive of sending their Children here, lest they should not be taught the true Principles of French Republicanism. The French seem to be gaining new friends among us since their late Success in Italy, instead of losing any of their old ones, altho' for a short time the principal Democrats here were rather silent. I am greatly afraid of the Meeting of Congress, because altho' Citizen Adet has no Commission as an Ambassador, I suspect that he does not want Money, & that he may be very liberal to the Members of Congress, as he has Mr. Jefferson for his Agent in the Senate, & Citizen Gallatin & many others in the House of Representatives. I hear likewise that some Members of Congress are Contractors for supplying the French Settlements, & these no Doubt will be very impartial Judges in the Quarrel betwixt France & this Country, by being equally interested on both Sides. Every thing is now in the present Age, otherwise Citizen Adet, when exalted as an Ambassador, would never have been permitted to remain in the Country as an Enemy, & the Head of a disaffected Party. Our Government is immensely weak, otherwise it would neither have permitted his Stay, nor allowed Capt. Barney to be entertained & treated with Ceremony as a Friend, when he boasted that he had Orders to take our Ships. By the Speech of the Directory to Mr. Monroe, it is evident that the French pretend to be still friends to the People of America, tho' Enemies to its Government, & I suppose that Citizen Adet has still a Commission as Ambassador to the People, tho' he has no Inter- course with the Officers of State. We were all surpris'd on Monday last, to find that when the Mail arrived, none of Porcupine's Papers were brought to this Place. It is thought that he is either assassinated by some of the Agents of the terrible Nation, or that his House is burnt down, or that the sovereign People, at the Instigation of Citizen Adet, have seized all his Papers at the Post Office. We wait with Impatience for the Arrival of the next Mail in order to get some Account of this strange Event. I confess I fear the worst, & if he is murdered, I fear that the Assassin would not be punished. Indeed if any thing should befall Citizen Adet, or any French Republican, the Governor in Person, attended by Mr. Dallas, would make strict Search for the Murderers, but I have no Suspicion that he would be very active in apprehending the Assassins of Peter Porcupine. Our Democrats rejoice



of the Extinction of Porcupine's Gazette, & hope that he is killed, & that they will never more be  
troubled with him. At the same <sup>time</sup> they hint that he had deserved Death, as his Publications had a ten-  
dency to irritate the French. I hear that the Number of Subscribers was daily increasing in sundry  
Parts of the Country, but what will all this avail, if the poor Man has fallen a Sacrifice to the Rage  
of the terrible Nation? — I think that the Advice you gave to Mr. Forment was a good one. His  
Sermons may do more Good here than he could expect to do himself. We hear of no Emigrants from  
Ireland this Season, & the reforming Interest in Belfast, appears to be very low, even according to  
the Account of Citizen Sampson, & by the Proclamation of the Lord Lieutenant extends only to  
a few Parishes. I had a Letter from a Friend in Scotland, dated 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. last in which he in-  
forms me that altho' the Taxes are high on Account of the War, yet by the flourishing State of  
Trade & Manufactures, the People are more able to pay their present high Taxes, than they were  
when the Taxes were much lower. My fears for this Country are still great, chiefly on Account  
of the visible & daily Decline of Religion, tho' our outward Circumstances are likewise threaten-  
ing, & our Safety depends more on the Wisdom of other Nations than on ourselves. May if we  
are freed at all from our present Subjection to the French, it must be against our Will.  
At the Meeting of Congress I am afraid that no Member will be hardy enough to propose  
that we should resist the French Depredations on our Trade by making an Alliance, offen-  
sive & defensive, with Great Britain, & altho' this should be proposed, I do not imagine  
that Mr. Pitt would be in any great Haste to accept of it. The English, you may be sure,  
are prodigiously diverted at seeing the Americans plundered, insulted & abused by their  
dear friends & Brethren the French, whom they have so long worshipped, whose Successes  
they have so highly celebrated, & in whose favour they have expressed the most virulent  
Enmity against Great Britain. The English will think that it is now their Turn, to  
rejoice at the Successes of the French, when they are obtained at the Expence of the Ameri-  
cans. Hence any Aid they give us, will be but feeble & transient, & will come rather late  
as they will think it just that we should learn by some more Experience, what Sort of  
Friends & Allies the French are, before they give us any Assistance against them. So far  
indeed as this Country can be serviceable to the British Possessions & Acquisitions in the  
West Indies, they will protect its Trade, but no further; & the Enmity that many of our  
Citizens have expressed, against England, will abundantly justify such a Conduct. May  
it is possible that on our first Application to Mr. Pitt, he may tell us that we ought  
to apply to the French Republic, whose Interests we have so long preferred not only to  
those of England, but to our own. Or he may tell us that the present Application comes  
only from the Government, but that the People are still on the Side of the French, and  
if either Citizen Dallas or Citizen Swanwick corresponds with Mr. Pitt, they would  
certainly assure him that this is the Case. But whatever be in this, Peace seems as yet  
to be at a great Distance. The Successes of the French in Italy, however magnified  
by themselves & their friends, will leave their Affairs in that Country just where they  
were. He had assured the Directory long ago, that the Battle of Arcole had decided

the fate of Italy, & yet we find that it needed to be decided over again so oft than five times, since that Battle. And I suppose that at present the French Army in Italy is at least as weak, if not weaker than that of the Emperor, as appears by their sending their Prisoners to Grenoble, whereas if they thought that their Power was great in Italy, nay if they did not suspect that they would be soon released by their Countrymen, if they remained in Italy, they would never have thought of sending them out of it. I should be very glad to hear that our old Acquaintance the Pope, who is now to appear at the Head of his Army, had, with the Assistance of General Wurmsper, attacked the Remains of Buonaparte's victorious Army, & cut them in Pieces or taken them Prisoners, tho' I am afraid that such News would not be agreeable to our good Friend Mr Marshall, who has an eager Desire of seeing the Pope at Philadelphia. It seems now likewise to be past a Doubt that Mr. Pinkney has not been received by the French Directory, tho' if he had been received, I think he would have had as little Success as Lord Malmesbury. I hope that the Dunkirk Expedition against England will be as unsuccessful as that of Gen. Woche against Ireland. If Guadaloupe should be taken by the English, as has been already reported, our Losses by French Privateers would be much diminished, but the English are so eager to catch Spanish Vessels laden with Dollars, that they in a great Measure neglect the French, which is a Step to us. How long a just & holy God may permit the World to be desolated by the fire of Liberty & Equality, can not be foreseen with any Degree of Probability, but as the Causes of his Wrath still subsist, we have Reason to dread that more Judgments are still approaching. Indeed if the new Emperor of Russia should heartily join in the Conspiracy against France, the Princes of Germany might be awakened out of their lethargy, & Italy, Holland & Flanders, may once more recover their Liberty, & England may no longer left to stand alone, against the Enemies of God & Mankind. Besides the present French Government appears to be as tyrannical & odious to their People as any of the former, & when they are no longer amused with the News of Victories, they may rise against their Tyrants, & restore something like their former Government. I am glad to hear that Mr. Adams meets with no Enemies, but he has a ticklish Game to play, & will not be long till he find the Opposition of the numerous Partisans of France in this Country. I suppose that his greatest Foes will be those of his own Household, as it seems to be the general Plan of the French to divide every Country against it self. Insurrections in most of the States are to be dreaded, in case any Resistance is proposed to be made, against the Depredations of the French Republic, & numerous Bankruptcies must be produced, by the Capture of so many of our Ships. I have hopes of seeing you during our Vacation in May next, tho' certain Circumstances or Proceedings of the foreign People, may render it impracticable. Please present my Compliments to your worthy Partner Mr Mills. I remain, with unfeigned Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Cha. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 5th April, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 18th March only yesterday, & it seems that you were not at that time informed of the unsuccessful Attempt of the French upon Ireland, which is now put beyond a Doubt, tho' we are not yet informed of all its Consequences. I know of Lord Malmesbury's Dismission, long before he set out in his Journey to Paris, tho' I think it is happy for Great Britain that he was dismissed, as I think that nothing could be more fatal to Britain, nor to the World in general than a Peace with France in its present overgrown State. You are in a great Mistake when you imagine that I am at the head of the popular Party here, for altho' it is true that Peter Porcupine's Principles are more favoured here than of late, & that his Paper has found some Subscribers, yet your humble Servant was never less popular, nor more insulted & abused by the Scum of Ireland than at present. This Seminary is weak but some of those concerned in it would wish that it were still weaker, in order to lay the Blame on me, & to persuade the Public that Parents were apprehensive of sending their Children here, lest they should not be taught the true Principles of French Republicanism. The French seem to be gaining new friends among us since their late Successes in Italy, instead of losing any of their old ones, altho' for a short time the principal Democrats here were rather silent. I am greatly afraid of the Meeting of Congress, because altho' Citizen Adel has no Commission as an Ambassador, I suspect that he does not want Money, & that he may be very liberal to the Members of Congress, as he has Mr. Jefferson for his Agent in the Senate, & Citizen Gallatin & many others in the House of Representatives. I hear likewise that some Members of Congress are Contractors for supplying the French Settlements, & these no Doubt will be very impartial Judges in the Quarrel betwixt France & this Country, by being equally interested on both Sides. Every thing is now in the present Age, otherwise Citizen Adel, when exauctorated as an Ambassador, would never have been permitted to remain in the Country as an Enemy, & the head of a disaffected Party. Our Government is immensely weak, otherwise it would neither have permitted his Stay, nor allowed Capt. Barney to be entertained & treated with Ceremony as a Friend, when he boasted that he had Orders to take our Ships. By the Speech of the Directory to Mr. Monroe, it is evident that the French pretend to be still friends to the People of America, tho' Enemies to its Government, & I suppose that Citizen Adel has still a Commission as Ambassador to the People, tho' he has no Intercourse with the Officers of State. We were all surprised on Monday last, to find that when the Mail arrived, none of Porcupine's Papers were brought to this Place. It is thought that he is either assassinated by some of the Agents of the terrible Nation, or that his House is burnt down, or that the Sovereign People, at the Instigation of Citizen Adel, have seized all his Papers at the Post Office. We wait with Impatience for the Arrival of the next Mail in order to get some Account of this strange Event. I confess I fear the worst, & if he is murdered I fear that the Assassin would not be punished. Indeed if any thing should befall Citizen Adel, or any French Republican, the Governor in Person, attended by Mr. Dallas, would make strict Search for the Murderers, but I have no Suspicion that he would be very active in apprehending the Assassins of Peter Porcupine. Our Democrats rejoice

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the fate of Italy, & yet we find that it needed to be decided over again no less than five times, since that Battle. And I suppose that at present the French Army in Italy is at least as weak, if not weaker than that of the Emperor, as appears by their sending their Prisoners to Grenoble, whereas if they thought that their Power was great in Italy, nay if they did not suspect that they would be soon released by their Countrymen, if they remained in Italy, they would never have

thought of sending them out of it. I should be very glad to hear that our old Acquaintance the Pope, who is now to appear at the Head of his Army, had, with the Assistance of General Wurmser, attacked the Remains of Buonaparte's victorious Army, & cut them in Pieces or taken them Prisoners, tho' I am afraid that such News would not be agreeable to our good Friend Mr. Marshal, who has an eager Desire of seeing the Pope at Philadelphia. It seems now likewise to be past a Doubt that Mr. Pinckney has not been received by the French Directory, tho' if he had been received, I think he would have had as little Success as Lord Malmesbury. I hope that the Dunkirk Expedition against England will be as unsuccessful as that of Gen. Hoche against Ireland. If Guadaloupe should be taken by the English, as has been already reported, our Losses by French Privateers would be much diminished, but the English are so eager to catch Spanish Vessels laden with Dollars, that they in a great Measure neglect the French, which is a Loss to us. How long a just & holy God may permit the World to be desolated by the fire of Liberty & Equality, can not be foreseen with any Degree of Probability, but as the Causes of his Wrath still subsist, we have Reason to dread that more Judgments are still approaching. Indeed if the new Emperor of Russia should heartily join in the Confederacy against France, the Princes of Germany might be awakened out of their Lethargy, & Italy, Holland & Flanders, may once more recover their Liberty, & England may no longer left to stand alone against the Enemies of God & Mankind. Besides the present French Government appears to be as tyrannical & odious to their People as any of the former, & when they are no longer amused with the News of Victories, they may rise against their Tyrants, & restore something like their former Government. I am glad to hear that Mr. Adams meets with no Enemies, but he has a ticklish Game to play, & will not be long till he find the Opposition of the numerous Partisans of France in this Country. I suppose that his greatest Foes will be those of his own Household, as it seems to be the general Plan of the French to divide every Country against it self. Insurrections in most of the States are to be dreaded, in Case any Resistance is proposed to be made, against the Depredations of the French Republic, & numerous Bankruptcies must be produced, by the Capture of so many of our Ships. I have hopes of seeing you during our Vacation in May next, tho' certain Circumstances or Proceedings of the sovereign People, may render it impracticable. Please present my Compliments to your worthy Partner Mr. Mills. I remain, with unfeigned Esteem,

Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1797.

I was favoured with yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> April by Mr. Banks, & have learned from your City that my Answer to yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> March had been delivered. Times will look black, & I am afraid that there will be much Contention at the approaching Meeting of Congress, & altho' the more moderate of the French Party may propose conciliatory Measures, & Negotiations with the terrible Nation, when it shall be graciously pleased to admit them, yet the stiff Opposers of the late Treaty may propose to put an End to our Sufferings in a shorter Way, by declaring War against Great Britain, & putting our selves under the Protection of the French Republic. Our Accounts of the Affairs of Italy are very obscure tho' it would seem that the Pope had purchased a short Respite from the French, but he must do it again, & again, as long as he has a farthing to pay, & after all the French will pillage his Capital. The Silver Saints are probably all at Vienna long ago, where they run no small Risk of being melted down by the ardent Devotion of the Emperor, whose present Circumstances may probably dispose him to prefer Silver Saints to all others except Golden ones. One would imagine that Buona parte among the other Requisitions that he had made from the Pope, had obtained from <sup>him</sup> the Secret of Transubstantiation, as the French

Accounts from Italy represent him as present in a great many -  
Places at once, sometimes in the Vallies of Tyrol, & next day in the  
Neighbourhood of Rome, & at the same time on the Banks of the Po.  
I suppose that Dr. Priestley, who I hear, lately left your City, will  
return to it at the Meeting of Congress next Week, to enlighten the  
Members, & dispose them to submit with a good Grace to the In-  
jults of the terrible Nation. Was it you, or our friend Citizen Per-  
cupine, who gave Mr Jefferson that Bone to gnaw, that occasion-  
ed so much Dispute in the Philosophical Society? What have they  
made of it at length? Is it the Paw of a Tiger, or of a Sans  
Culotte? or of a Hydra? It may be doubted which of these is the  
most ravenous Animal. I believe it will not be in the Power of  
all your Jobbers to turn the Notes of the Bank of England into  
Congress Money, or to get them exchanged for Morris & Mi-  
chelson's Notes. And I suppose few of your Jobbers have ever  
been favoured with a Sight of any them, so that they can only  
growl & gnash their Teeth at them at a Distance. Mr. Swan-  
wick ought to apply to the French Republic rather than  
to his Creditors, for Relief from his present Difficulties. I hope  
that the English by seizing Vera Cruz, may cut their Way  
to the Mines of Mexico & Peru, & prevent the Wealth of

these Countries from running into the Coffers of the Sans Culottes. At the same time by being Masters of Porto bello & New Orleans, they would prevent the French from becoming our Neighbours on the Mississippi. I have no Doubt that the Project of the Invasion of England will succeed as well as it has done hitherto, but the Directory must do something to keep the People in Expectation. The two late Attempts at Invasion must have convinced the French that they can expect no Assistance from their Friends in Great Britain, who are so great towards that they dare not do any thing for them, till a Peace is made, on which all their Hopes of ruining their Country must depend, which makes them clamour so loudly for it. It is not in my Power to see your City this Vacation, as I must supply Dr. Davidson who attends our general Assembly. Our Man of the People has been convicted of forgery, which will render him more fit to represent them in the Legislature. I am with sincere Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Cha. Nisbet.



Carlisle, 11th May, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 29th April by Mr. Banks, & have learned from your City that my Answer to yours of the 18th March had been delivered. Times still look black, & I am afraid that there will be much Contention at the approaching Meeting of Congress, & altho' the more moderate of the French Party may propose conciliatory Measures, & Negotiations with the terrible Nation, when it shall be graciously pleased to admit them, yet the stiff Opposers of the late Treaty may propose to put an End to our Sufferings in a shorter Way, by declaring War against Great Britain, & putting ourselves under the Protection of the French Republic. Our Accounts of the Affairs of Italy are very obscure tho' it would seem that the Pope had purchased a short Respite from the French, but he must do it again, & again, as long as he has a farthing to pay, & after all the French will pillage his Capital. The Silver Saints are probably all at Vienna long ago, where they run no small Risk of being melted down by the ardent Devotion of the Emperor, whose present Circumstances may probably dispose him to prefer Silver Saints to all others except Golden ones. One would imagine that Buona parte among the other Requisitions that he had made from the Pope, had obtained from him the Secret of Transubstantiation, as the French

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Country must depend, which makes them clamour so loudly for it. It is not in my Power to see your City this Vacation, as I must supply Dr. Davidson who attends our general Assembly. Our Man of the People has been convicted of forgery, which will render him more fit to represent them in the Legislature. I am with sincere Esteem,

Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. by Mr. Armstrong on Saturday last, & was sorry that I could only converse a little while with him & Mr. Fulton, they being in great haste, & having a long Journey before them. I enter entirely into your Sentiments of the late awful Scourge. You do me only Justice in supposing that your suffering Fellow Citizens were present to my Mind. Indeed they were continually in my thoughts & Prayers, Night & Day, and I not only figured to myself their forsaken & suffering Condition, but dreaded continually to hear that the Infection was spreading in the Country, & brought to this Place, for I still consider it as an extraordinary Instance of the Goodness of God to this worthless Country, that neither in 1793 nor this Year did the Infection extend itself beyond the Limits of the City & Suburbs. I have seen in Brown's Paper the Causes of the proposed Fast by the Associate Prof. bytery of Pennsylvania. I think they are well stated & expressed, & hope that you will have the same favourable Opinion of those that are stated by our Synod at Lancaster. Indeed we are all wrong, & nothing can be so strong a Proof of this, as the extravagant Notions that we have of ourselves & our Country. I fear much, that when the Terrors of immediate Death are withdrawn, the late Stroke will be entirely forgotten, as was the Case in 1793. I am not surpris'd at the Differences of Opinion that have taken Place among your Physicians, & with Regard to the Abuse that is to be found in their Publications. I know no Law that forbid Physicians to abuse one another, they having the same Rights as other Citizens, but I find that the Charge of abuse is confined by some to those who have adventured to call in question the System of the blood-thirsty Doctor, which I think is not fair. I observe with Pleasure the Kindness of Providence to those who have supplied & nursed your suffering Neighbours, not without a Mixture of Wonder, that any of them escaped the Infection. The Meeting of Congress approaches, when Dr. Briffley will explain the Origin of the Disorder from Chymical & Natural Reasons, that none of the Members of the Philosophical Society at least, may imagine that God had any hand in it. The Troubles that attend our Trade are likely to continue, whatever Treatment the new Directory may see fit to give to our Ambassadors. Perhaps the French Republic may insist on our paying them the Wiltre, or some other Proportion, of our trading Vessels annually, as the Price of our Independence, & the Badge of our Subjection. And they may likewise insist on our rekindling the late Treaty with Great Britain & excluding all British Vessels from our Ports. But whatever Terms they impose will be uniformly supported by all the Democrats in both Houses of Congress, especially if the Directory shall be prevailed on to send over Citizen Adet, with a few Millions of Dollars, to conduct their Deliberations. The Prospect of Peace in Europe seems to be entirely vanished, by the Return of Lord Malmesbury, & the Dissolution of the Diplomatic Congress at Lisle. What has happened to the French Directory

at present, is no more than may happen hereafter, & might have happened after a Peace had been concluded, as well as before, & must show all the Nations of Europe how little Reliance they can have on any Treaty with France in its republican State, as before the Preliminaries could be signed, it is probable that the whole Directory - might be imprisoned for a pretended Plot. It is wonderful that this does not occur to our Politicians. The Junies of War must continue to desolate Europe, & perhaps America also in part, for some time longer, how long indeed, it is impossible to conjecture. The Plan of the present Rulers of France seems to be to rid themselves of their Generals, by setting up one against another. Buona Parte seems to be eager to fabricate Evidence against Pichegru, in order that he may be the Monarch, & Moreau, who is now also said to be in Custody, was made a Tool for the same Purpose. I suppose that all the Accusations against Pichegru & the other Prisoners are forged, & that they will be executed on their Way to Cayenne, but there is no matter, they are guilty enough in other Respects, tho' guilty of plotting in favour of Royalty. Guilt & Innocence have long since lost their Meaning among the French, but let them kill whom they will, they need be in no fear of shedding innocent Blood, as long as they keep among themselves, as they are all Criminals. Perhaps Providence may weary them with their own Inventions & by sundry sudden Revolutions of this kind, make way for a Government that is fit for the French Nation, & safe for the Neighbouring Powers to treat with. And since that Barbarity in the Character of the French, which the Revolutions have so fully manifested, it is evident that nothing short of a strict & arbitrary Government is capable of preserving civil Order among such a People. In sundry of my Prophecies concerning this Revolution, which I have communicated to my friends in Scotland, I have intimated my Expectation that a General Monk would arise, who would turn every thing the other Way, & I once thought that Gen. Pichegru might be the Man, as he was formerly a Franciscan Monk. But I find now that I was mistaken, but General Le Moine, who struck the Blow, by apprehending the pretended Plotters now bids fairest for being <sup>the</sup> General Monk (Moine signifies Monk) who is to restore the King of France, at such a time as God shall see fit to restore Peace to Europe. The Violences committed in the Days of Liberty, & the Renunciations of Religion which flows from Revolutionary Principles, will afford wise Lessons for future Ages, but I am afraid that the present Age has more to suffer from its darling Dodgins, before it can be sensible of their Absurdity & Enormity. Matters in Europe seemed to be drawing towards a Crisis, & many were intoxicated with the Expectations of a General Peace. - All these Hopes are now vanished, - & God only knows for how long a time. I was none of those that were deceived by the Hopes of immediate Peace. I knew that it was not the Interest of the Rulers of France

to make Peace, & therefore expected that they would prevent it by some Means or  
other, tho' I could never have expected so great a Change in their Administration, as has  
taken place at present. And the Suppression of so many News Papers is fit to open  
the Eyes of those who have any, & to give them just Notions of French Liberty. But  
the sealing up of the Aristocratical Books on the famous 10<sup>th</sup> of August, had no Effect  
of this kind, which makes me less sanguine in my hopes than I otherwise would  
have been. Mankind are never enlightened but with Difficulty & against their Will,  
& they struggle against the Admission of Light, as long as they can. The French  
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probably be more hardened in their Belief of its Stability, as the reigning Party for  
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Head. The Want of Principle indeed appears sufficiently in our hands  
lent Bankruptcies, our French Privateers <sup>with</sup> ~~mainly~~ American Sailors, & owned by  
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Notice of by the Public. We might learn by the Experience of others, but I fear  
we will need to be taught by Briers & Thorns of the Wilderness. We know that  
the Promises of God must be accomplished but we know not their time. And we know  
that the Church will be preserved, but we know not in what Place. Yet every one  
ought to strive that Religion may be maintained, if possible, in their own Country.  
The Lord reigneth. — All shall be well at last. I remain with Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant  
Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, Novr. 13th, 1797.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 1st curt. by Mr. Armstrong on Saturday last, & was sorry that I could only converse a little while with him & Mr. Fulton, they being in great haste, & having a long journey before them. I enter entirely into your Sentiments of the late awful Scourge. You do me only Justice in supposing that your suffering Fellow Citizens were present to my Mind. Indeed they were continually in my thoughts & Prayers, Night & Day. And I not only figured to myself their forsaken & suffering Condition, but dreaded continually to hear that the Infection was spreading in the Country, & brought to this Place, for I still consider it as an extraordinary Instance of the Goodness of God to this worthless Country, that neither in 1793, nor this Year did the Infection extend itself beyond the Limits of the City & Suburbs. I have seen in Brown's Paper the Causes of the proposed Fast by the Associate Presbytery of Pennsylvania. I think they are well stated and expressed, & hope that you will have the same favourable Opinion of those that are stated by our Synod at Lancaster. Indeed we are all wrong, & nothing can be so strong a Proof of this, as the extravagant Notions that we have of ourselves & our Country. I fear much, that when the Terrors of immediate Death are withdrawn, the late Stroke will be entirely forgotten, as was the Case in 1793. I am not surprised at the Differences of Opinion that have taken Place among your Physicians, & with Regard to the Abuse that is to be found in their Publications, I know no Laws that forbid Physicians to abuse one another, they having the same Rights as other Citizens, but I find that the Charge of abuse is confined by some to those who have adventured to call in question the System of the bloodthirsty Doctor, which I think is not fair. I observe with Pleasure the kindness of Providence to those who have supplied & nursed your suffering Neighbours, not without a Mixture of Wonder, that any of them escaped the Infection. The Meeting of Congress approaches, when Dr. Priestley will explain the Origin of the Disorder from Chymical & Natural Reasons, that none of the Members of the Philosophical Society at least, may imagine that God had any hand in it. The Troubles that attend our Trade are likely to continue, whatever Treatment the new Directory may see fit to give to our Ambassadors. Perhaps the terrible Republic may insist on our paying them the tithe, or some other Proportion, of our trading Vessels annually, as the Price of our Independence, & the Badge of our Subjection. And they may likeways insist on our rescinding the late Treaty with Great Britain & excluding all British Vessels from our Ports. But whatever Terms they impose will be uniformly supported by all the Democrates in both Houses of Congress, especially if the Directory shall be prevailed on to send over Citizen Adel, with a few Millions of Dollars, to conduct their Deliberations. The Prospect of Peace in Europe seems to be entirely vanished, by the Return of Lord Malmesbury, & the Dissolution of the Diplomatic Congress at Lisle. What has happened to the French Directory

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instructive to Posterity, & especially tend to expose that absurd Notion, that a State may be kept in Civil Order without any Religion, which has taken such a strong hold of the Conceits of the cabbling Politicians of this Country, tho' I fear we must first have some Convulsions among ourselves before we are enlightened on this Head. The Want of Principle indeed appears sufficiently in our fraudulent Bankruptcies, our French Privateers mann'd with American Sailors, & owned by American Merchants, as well from the Perjury of Randolph & the Flour Merchants, & that blind Attachment to the Interests of the terrible Republic in preference to their own Country that is openly professed by so many Members of Congress. But it must produce some striking & fatal Consequences, before it is taken Notice of by the Public. We might learn by the Experience of others, but I fear we will need to be taught by Briars & Thorns of the Wilderness. We know that the Promises of God must be accomplished but we know not their time. And we know that the Church will be preserved, but we know not in what Place. Yet every one ought to strive that Religion may be maintained, if possible, in their own Country. The Lord reigneth. All shall be well at last. I remain with Esteem,

Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant

Chas. Nisbet.



Dear Sir.

Carlisle, Nov. 23<sup>d</sup> 1798.

I have now before me yours of August 3<sup>d</sup>. The late awful Judgment of Heaven, & the consequent Dispersion of your Citizens & those of New York, have long prevented me from thinking of writing Letters. I hope that you & your family are well. tho' your Mercism would not permit you to leave the City. Our Bell is just now ringing for the Accounts of the Defeat of Buona parte & his Fleet in the Road of Alexandria, & the Capture of Nine 74 Gun Ships of the French Fleet. Buona parte appears to be on his last Legs, having lost two thousand Men in his Attempt to land at Alexandria, & it is said that his Transports are blocked up in the Nile, in great Want of Provisions, as well as his Army. I hope that Providence is beginning to set bounds to the destructive French Republic, & that the Turks will not be so fond of the barren Name & Title of Liberty, as to suffer them to remain in their Country. Have you waited on his Excellency Dr. Logan, late Ambassador to France from Mr. Jefferson & Judge McKeon? Or have you congratulated the Secretary of State for his humility in receiving Citizen Saltygrad's Letters from him, & permitting him to go quietly about his Business, or rather the Business of the Directory, in whose Service he is now engaged? Our Government must soon render itself contemptible by not daring to arrest & try its Enemies. Mr. Jefferson & Judge McKeon have been formally guilty of High Treason, in sending an Ambassador to France, which by the Constitution was not lawful for any, except the President of the United States. Yet they are suffered to go on in promoting the French Interest, having never denied their signing of the Passports of Dr. Logan. tho' they have been publicly charged with it in the News Papers. The Timidity & Insensibility of our Government is astonishing, & augurs that its Continuance must be very short. The Revolutionists of France first encouraged the People to depose their Governours, next to insult them, & soon after to cut off their Heads, & the same Process is fairly begun in this Country, & likely to be carried on. Mr. Barlow, whose Psalms are devoutly sung in most of our Meetings has declared the President to be out of his senses, & the Lyon of Vermont has published his Letter, for the Encouragement of his fellow Sane Enslaves. Yet this Noel Barlow is in the Service of the United States by Appointment of the President & Senate, as American Consul at Algiers. He was the Author of the pious Hymn to the Guillotine, which was sung with so much Solemnity at Hamburgh, at the Rejoicings there for the Conquest of Holland by the French. I know not whether

our General Assembly have ordered this pious Performance to be passed on a blank Leaf of Watts's Psalms, & sung together with Mr. Barlow's other Performances, for the Edification of devout Presbyterians. Mr. Lang, from Washington County, is here at present. He has suffered much Vexation from the Wildness of his People, & I have heard from others, that he was to leave them in the Spring, but it was too delicate a Subject to mention to himself. In short the Sovereign People every where seem to be going mad, if one durst say so without being guilty of High Treason. Have you heard whether Mr. Jefferson has yet called together the Minority in Congress, to consult what is to be done with the Majority? I would not be surpris'd to hear in six Weeks hence, if the same Fomenters in Government continues, that the President & those who adhere to him were shipped for Cayenne, or conducted to the Gaol of Philadelphia, under a Guard of Felons, released from thence by the Sovereign People, with Mr. Jefferson, or Judge M<sup>r</sup>Keen, like another La Fayette, at their Head. It would only be a Revolution, & the World is now accustomed to Revolutions. The Governor & Mr. Dallas (I believe I should have said Mr. Dallas & the Governor) will no doubt be deeply afflicted for the Defeat & Ruin of the French Fleet. The Loss of so many Republican Citizens, & of nine Ships of the Line, must be very distressing to them, especially as it may retard the Conquest of America by the French Republic, to which they look forward with devout Expectation. The Drought is so great in this Country, that the Stream of the Conewoga, a large Creek in the County of York, is said to be totally dried, and the Farmers who live near it have left all their Hogs, being choiced with the Bones of the Fish deserted by the Water, which they gobbled up in haste. Such Droughts are said commonly to precede Earthquakes, tho' I do not remember whether the late Earthquake that desolated Calabria & Messina, or the later one that brighten'd the Pope himself at Siena, were preceded by a remarkable Drought. Great Complaints of the Scarcity of Money still prevail, & every necessary Article sells at a very high Price. United Irishmen continue to arrive daily among us, who will be faithful Agents for France, by strengthening its Interest among us. They have brought over great Bundles of Pamphlets & Ballads against their own Government, which they distribute among their Countrymen here, to excite them to Insurrection against the

Government of this Country. The forwardness of the Merchants in building & arming  
Vessels for the Protection of our Trade, has a Show of Spirit & Patriotism, but it remains that  
Congress should provide Money for the Pay of the Officers & Seamen. The Members of the  
House of Representatives will be very unwilling to impose Taxes, some of them for fear of  
losing their Seats, & others for fear of displeasing the French. Mr. Gallatin's Eloquence &  
Influence will be strongly exerted on this Occasion, & it is probable that Dr. Logan has  
brought over large Sums of Money, to be distributed among the same Culprit Members of  
Congress, in order to retain them in the Interests of the Possible Republic. I have not  
yet seen Mr. Willcocks's Book, for tho' it was brought to Philadelphia in May last  
by Dr. Rogers, who gave me the letter that accompanied it, yet with a Carelessness truly  
American, he never recollected that he had it in his Custody, tho' I saw him several Times  
in Philadelphia. I would be obliged to you if you would ask Mr. Hazard  
whether Dr. Rogers left a Parcel directed to me in his House, or carried  
it back with him to New York. If you should get the Parcel, you will  
be kind enough to give it to Mr. Turnbull, who will forward it to me  
by first Opportunity, & I expect, thro' the same Channel, to hear from  
you of your Welfare, & all the News of your great City. I have no do-  
lent of late from the Old Country, & was sorry to read in the Papers, that the Adventure  
from Greenock was arrived at New York, but that no Letters, by this Vessel, have as  
yet reached me. The Rebellion in Ireland seems to be not yet totally suppressed, & some  
of our Papers mention a second Landing of the French in the Bay of Abigo. But the ad-  
vantages that have been already gained by Government, & the consequent Depreciation of  
the United Irishmen, give us Reason to hope that every Remain of Rebellion in that Country  
will soon be suppressed. We have heard nothing every Day for these three Weeks past, but  
we have had very little Rain hitherto. Hoping to hear soon of your Welfare & all the  
Transactions of your Capital, I remain, with sincere Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Carlisle, Novr. 23d 1798.

Dear Sir,

I have now before me yours of August 3d, The late awful Judgment of Heaven, & the Consequent Dispersion of your Citizens & those of New York, have long prevented me from thinking of writing Letters. I hope that you & your family are well, tho' your Heroism would not permit you to leave the City. Our Bell is just now ringing for the Accounts of the Defeat of Buona parte & his fleet in the Road of Alexandria, & the Capture of Nine 74 Gun Ships of the French Fleet. Buona parte appears to be on his last Legs, having lost two thousand Men in his Attempt to land at Alexandria, & it is said that his Transports are blocked up in the Nile, in great Want of Provisions, as well as his Army. I hope that Providence is beginning to set bounds to the destructive French Republic, & that the Turks will not be so fond of the barren Name & Tree of Liberty, as to suffer them to remain in their Country. Have you waited on his Excellency Dr. Logan, late Ambassador to France from Mr. Jefferson & Judge McKean? Or have you congratulated the Secretary of State for his humility in receiving Citizen Talleyrand's Letters from him, & permitting him to go quietly about his Business, or rather the Business of the Directory, in whose Service he is now engaged? Our Government must soon render itself contemptible by not daring to arrest & try its Enemies. Mr. Jefferson & Judge McKean have been formally guilty of High Treason, in sending an Ambassador to France, which by the Constitution was not lawful for any, except the President of the United States. Yet they are suffered to go on in promoting the French Interest, having never denied their signing of the Passports of Dr. Logan, tho' they have been publicly charged with it in the News Papers. The Timidity & Insensibility of our Government is astonishing, & augurs that its Continuance must be very short. The Revolutionists of France first encouraged the People to despise their Governors, next to insult them, & soon after to cut off their Heads, & the same Process is fairly begun in this Country, & likely to be carried on. Mr. Barlow, whose Psalms are devoutly sung in most of our Meetings has declared the President to be out of his Senses, & the Lyon of Vermont has published his Letter, for the Encouragement of his fellow Sans Culotes. Yet this Joel Barlow is in the Service of the United States by Appointment of the President & Senate, as American Consul at Algiers. He was the Author of the pious Hymn to the Guillotine, which was sung with so much Solemnity at Hamburgh, at the Rejoicings there for the Conquest of Holland by the French. I know not whether

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Dear Sir,  
Your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

Dear Sir,

Carlisle, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1799.

You lay me under manifold Obligations. Three days ago I was favoured with yours of 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January by the same Bearer. I enjoyed the Superiority of our Carlisle People over the Sans Culottes of Philadelphia. It seems that your Bells made no Noise on Occasion of Adm<sup>l</sup> Nelson's Victory. We have but one, & it rung several Times in Succession. I hope that the Fate of Buonaparte will be very near what I had predicted, as our last Accounts affirm that he is a missing, & that diligent Search was making for his Person, which can not remain long undiscovered in Egypt. I hope that Providence has begun to bring down the Sans Culottes, after having exalted them for the Punishment of other guilty Nations. God can bring down those whom he had set up, after the Purpose of his setting them up is accomplished. It seems that your Business is bad, when Matthew Carey is giving it over. Yet it is possible that Matthew will not live so plentifully on the Productions of his Genius, if all of them resemble his Musb Bidding, as he has hitherto done on his Book Shop. Perhaps he expects a Pension from the Executive Directory of Ireland, or from the Society of United Irishmen in your City, but I have not heard that the Funds of either are in a very splendid Condition, & as there is a Deficit of 105,000,000 in the French Funds, I think that he can not expect much Relief from that Quarter. Mr. Theobald Wolf Tone does not seem to have made a great Fortune by his Revolutionary Adventures, & General Sandy has never obtained a single Victory. Your Democrats will be in great Dudgeon, when they hear that the American Ambassador at London has had Orders to protest against the Impugnation of Irish Convicts into the Territory of the United States. What a Number of good Citizens might they have expected to have received, if Wolf Tone & Holt, with their numerous Adherents had been permitted to join their Society? Bolany Bay is likely to rob them of this Satisfaction, unless the Russian & Danish Governments shall consent to their being landed in Greenland, Iceland, Nova-Zembla or Kamshatka. It seems that the Ambassador Logan has neglected to call on you, but you ought to consider that his honourable Reception by the Directory, & the honours that have been heaped on him since his Return, by the Gratitude of the Sovereign People, must have completely turned his Head. I hope that this will teach you, never to put your Trust in great Men. I have read the late Communications from France, with the Observations of the Secretary of State, but I know not whether they will convince many of our Citizens that the French have acted any otherwise to us than as friends or Brethren. I was going to acknowledge the favour of your sending me a likeness of your Acquaintance Talleyrand, but on Recollection I find that it was no more than your Duty, after having prevented me from noticing the Original, when we were walking along Market Street, to dine with Mr. John Dunlop, & Thomas Laper, of democratic Memory. The French Papers,

I see, have put Buena parte in Possession of Jerusalem & Aleppo, without con- sidering the Distance of those Places from Egypt, & one Paper put him in Possession of the Persian Gulph. The Wretches must say something to comfort their deluded Countrymen. I assure <sup>you</sup> that if Talleyrand should change his Quarters, I would not conceal him, after being favoured with such an exact Likeness of him, & that all his Bundles of Bribery, Corruption & Requisitions should not hinder me from denouncing him to the Secretary of State, & getting him committed to safe Custody; tho' I know well that I would thereby incur the heavy Displeasure of his Excellency the Governor, Mr. Dallas, Judge McKeen, & many of your leading Citizens. It is much to be wished for, that the present Government of France may be overturned before the Christian Religion is entirely forgotten among them. A Generation of Bastards, educated in Atheism, would be a shocking Spectacle, & destructive to the Morals & Safety of all Europe, if any thing can be conceived more destructive than the French are at present. But God's Ways are not as our Ways nor his Thoughts like our Thoughts. His Way is in the Sea, & his Path in the mighty Waters, where his footsteps are not known. What Judgments are hanging over the World or how long the Nations are to be dashed against one another, it is impossible to say. A great Noise, resembling the firing of Cannon & small Arms, often repeated, was heard ~~there~~ & at Shippensburg on Thursday last the 31<sup>st</sup> January. I did not hear it, but Mr. Talcott tells me that he heard it in his School, & many Persons in this Place and Neighbourhood heard it distinctly & for a considerable time. Some say that such a Noise was heard in the Air, before the Revolutionary War, but others suppose it to have been an Earthquake which is most probable, & some Years ago sundry Parts of the County of Lancaster were alarmed with a Noise of this kind. You may be more confident of the Truth of this, than of the drying up of the great Conewoga of which I erroneously informed you in my last, tho' I hope Mr. Marshall took Care to undeceive you, but as false Reports have often some foundation, a small Creek about four Miles from this Place was actually dried up at that Time. I am afraid that the French are making Surprizes of our Government by their Diplomatic Skill, & that the Declaration of Independence by the Black & Government of St. Domingo, is a mere Trick of Talleyrand, to induce our Citizens to support his Countrymen as Rebels, when he can no longer support them as Citizens. But as they still continue to capture American Vessels, I hope that the President will not be so blind as to suspend the Act interdicting Commerce in their Favour, even after being impowered by Congress to do it. He would do better to order our Cruisers to prevent the disaffected Party



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by Shift of Weather, as we learn from our Papers. It is surprising that the Act against  
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W. X. Y. Z. to treat with the unknown Ambassadors of the new Republic of St. Domin-  
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for his family in Germantown, in case of Necessity. I am afraid that your Citizens will  
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it clean. Those who have visited it lately, say that they never saw it so dirty. Have you  
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they will pay no more Taxes, & as they are Sovereigns, you know that there  
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seem likely to be adopted by all the State Legislatures, tho' Mr. Blount will  
no doubt take Care that they be adopted by the State of Tennessee, & the  
Spitting Lyon will probably procure them to be adopted by the State of Ver-  
mont, so that by this Means the French will have a quadruple Alliance  
established against the Authority of Congress. I entirely agree with you in  
your Reasonings on the probable sale of Buona parte. Excuse me to Mr. Marshall,  
for not writing him, as Dr. Armstrong sets out to Morrow. Besides you may tell  
him that I was greatly disappointed at his not being able to give me any Accounts  
of the Pope, tho' he knew my great Anxiety for Information on that head. I was  
obliged to him however for the Account he gave me of Gen. McDonald. I have been  
reading over Dr. Preston's Eighteen Sermons on the new Covenant, & would wish  
that all the Inhabitants of America, & of the World, should read & understand them,  
but I dare not hope that any Bookseller would have the Courage to republish  
them. Citizen Parcupine has never advertised the Pamphlet that he promised, on  
Dr. Priestley, tho' he has properly enough noticed the Embarkation of his Son, to a  
Monarchical, & Aristocratical Country. But whether he intends to succeed Mr. Wolf  
Jones, or to be Aide de Camp to General Sandy, a little time will discover.  
Tell Mr. Marshall that I hope to write him by next Opportunity. I remain, with  
sincere Esteem & the Compliments of the Season,

Dear Sir,

your very humble Servant,

Chas. Nisbet.

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