

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from David Erskine to Charles Nisbet

**Date:** circa 1780

**Location:** MC 2001.7, B1, F1

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Reverend Sir,

A Mother whose constitution is broken, seldom produces healthy Children.

I am sorry to see the features of the Mother grow every day stronger in North America and I can hardly condole with you on your being obliged to live among your Countrymen.

I flatter myself that posterity will discover that I have endeavoured not altogether without success to make Scotland more worthy of retaining you as a citizen, & a pastor of our Church than it has been heretofore.

That you should have been prevented from accepting of your appointment at Carlisle projected college by the Calvinistic party in Pennsylvania is amusing enough as are the strange inconsistencies of admitting the Loyalists to citizenship and excluding the followers of the Legislator and founder of the Commonwealth.

I have marked with a jealous eye your whole conduct & I can find no fault with it but that you are honest & open as I am, and that your enemies have availed themselves of it.

Since your train of thought has been led to the institutions of Youth, why are you to be prevented from the exercise of your talents & your laudable ambition here because you are not allowed by prudence to whitewash the ill instituted Youth of a distant Country?

Only prove which is in your power that you can make a

Man & you will have many at your command. In the meantime  
allow me to call your attention to a learned subject which I have  
been lately endeavouring to elucidate, the progress of the Roman  
Arms in your part of the world. There are the remains  
of two camps about Six miles from each other connected  
with a causeway & these are not far from you they are  
called the New dykes & the Battle dykes Mr. Jamieson of  
Forfar has informed me of them & I wish to have a  
description & measurement of them accompanied by a  
drawing & a map of the adjacent country representing  
the nature of the ground independent of cultivations.  
From these and a string of roman entrenchment thro'  
Skullmore to the pass of the Grampian near Stonehive  
I mean to follow Agueda in his march & to determine  
the field of the last great Battle where Gallicus &  
the combined Clanns were defeated.

Lady Buchan desires me to present her complets and  
I am Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir with great regard

your obed<sup>t</sup>. humble serv<sup>t</sup>

Buchan,

To

The Reverend

Dr. Nisbet Minister of the Gospel

at

Montrose

to Lewis, Highwaysman Kings Alliance

Earl of Buchan

Reverend Sir,

A Mother whose constitution is broken, seldom produces healthy children.

I am sorry to see the features of the Mother grow every day stronger in North America and I can hardly condole with you on your being obliged to live among your countrymen.

I flatter myself that posterity will discover that I have endeavoured not altogether without success to make Scotland more worthy of retaining you as a citizen & pastor of our church than it has been heretofore.

That you should have been prevented from accepting of your appointment at Carlisle projected college by the Calvinist party in Pennsylvania is amusing enough as are the strange inconsistencies of admitting the Loyalist to citizenship and excluding the followers of the legislator and founder of the commonwealth.

I have markt with a jealous eye your whole conduct & I can find no fault with it but that you are honester & opener than I am and that your enemies have availed themselves of it.

Since your train of thought has been led to the institution of youths, why are you to be prevented from the encrease of your talent & your laudable ambition here because you are not allowed by prudence to whitewash the ill instituted youth of a distant country!

Only prove which is in your power that you can make a

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man & you will have many at your command. In the meantime allow me to call your attention to a learned subject which I have been lately endeavouring to educate, the progress of the Roman Arms on your part of the world. There are the remains of two camps about six miles from each other connected with a causeway & these are not far from you they are called the Newdykes & the Battle dykes Mr. Jameson of Torfar had informed me of them & I wish to have a decipher and measurement of them accompanied by a drawing & a map of the adjacent country representing the nature of the ground independent of outstations. From these and a thing of roman entrenchment thro' Thallmore to the pass of the Grampman near Stonehive I mean to follow Agnecola in his march & to determine the field of the last great battle where Galeacus & the combined clans were defeated.

Lady Buchan leaves me to present her complts. And I am Revd. Sir with great regard

Your obedt. Humble servt.

Buchan