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Title: Letter from James McKenzie to Charles Nisbet

Date: January 30, 1804

Location: MC 2001.7, B1, F4

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Reverend Dear Sin

Glasgow 30 Janry 1804.

your esteemed letter of the 4"Octry Tonly received the 14 inst, Iwas afraid my last letter had miscarried. I was so long in hearing from you. dwith regard to the Invasion of this country by Frame we have been in a state of alarm for four months has It was positively said this would take place in October; and well it is for this country that it did not happen then, as we were ill-prepared to meet it. Since thus time we have been arming, and have now in great Britain and Ireland 720,000 mer in arms their number might have been much greater had all who offered their service been anefited; but Government would not find arms for more. On the coast of England and army of 70,000 can be collected at any place in a day or two. In Edinburgh where people are much a frate) there are about , 10,000; and in the neighbouring towns are 10,000 more, which are ready at an hour notice. Low Morra resides as Edin' as commander in chief for Deotland - He sent notice to the volunteers here lately (about 3,600) to be ready to march at an hours of armed Ships &. Some ships of war are placed as fampheltown

and Strangaer to guard blyde. I see by the newspapers that a guar is heft at the point in the harth of Craig, and another at Lunan bay. So great is the demand for fire locks, that government has been obliged to arm some thousand, of volunteen with piker. There are no democrates in our Country now; the Gentlemen who were heenest in finding fault with government last war, are offuen amongour volunteers now! In London there have been public meetings for prayer on auvunt of the war, once a month since it commenced; in Edin. They have had a brayer meeting once a week since ang! last; here there has been a meeting for prayer in our Chapel of base on Tuesday evening weekly for some months; by two ministers; on Thursday evening the miniters of the lown, take by turns a meeting in our laugh histo; on monday evening our Relief clergy have meetings oneea fortnight; on wednesday evening our Antiturghen meet also, once a fortnight; on Thursday evening om Burghen meet one a week; and on Triday evening our Takemailes med one a three weeks for prayer. Our Fleets are as formedable as our armies; and watch the motions of the French so closely, that they cannot get out of their hosts. We have a fleet of Touchon which here vents any ships from getting in or out: Admiral formullis has blocaded Brest with a large fleet, for nine months, oxight a few days when driven of his station by violent winds in the and of December; only one of his ships received no damage,

and held her Station! We have a fleet on tho wast of Holland, who watch the motions of the Dutch, who are dragged into the service of the French, and are longing for deliverance. We have also a fleet on the Frish wast. and in the Down ye te- Twe are now so well proposed, for the French, that people wish they would make the attempt of invading in. We have heard agreat deal of then preparation for this, by marching many thousands to their sea parts, and that some hundreds of flat bottomed bouts were built be " on the 19" inst there was another violent gale of wind on the coast of Congland. This hurricand was proceeded by an uncommon agitation in the sea, which seemed to indicate an extraordinary concussion of nature. The water in Talmouth harbour, about three hours before nove suddenly to the height of six or eight feet perpendicular, recoiled, and rose, and rose again three surressive times, in the wurse of a few minutes! in the same manner it is remembered to have done in the time of the earthquake that destroyed Liston. It laster from 5 o'clock D.M. till 12 at night; and heir done great damage to Houses, Shipping yes I have not heard from Me Paten for several months: Last time Thear from him, he informed me that, he had got an agreeable helper, a young gentleman from Edin named Brewster. The present Lady of Rofsie is hours, and was terrified, in case of Dr Patons death, they would have a Son of Dr Ilioli de Andrews thrust in to the parish, as the

College of It Andrews are Patron to Groing; and finding is Brewster a goshel Ineacher, She of plies to Lard Molvill, Cornerly Henry Dundas) to use his influence with the College, that Mr Brewster should be placed as helper & suregoor to Dr. Paton; which she obtained. or Mr Courts, minister in Brechin died about the same time, and the heaple of Breshin getting a hearing of Mr Brewster, made choice of him for their minister; and a presentation for him was wrote for to the hing, which was granted. sen Ross of Rossie was greatly alarmed again at this circumstance, as she was certain w Ilile would be presented to braig; and Broaton to satisfy her, and his own mind, agreed to demit, and accordingly gowe wh his charge; and Mr Brewster is now minister of bring; and the Doctor, I suppose is own an inhabitant. of Montrove; for Alex Molloson toto me about three weeks ago, that his Tather write him, that he had preached the funeral dermon of a man, who was setting by his side in good health. - I am very sorry to say that the town bounced of Brechen have one oxceedingly in their choice of another young man, a estr Whitson from about Blairgowie, whose call was signed only by 15, and there mostly under influence; none of the Elden came forward; and some of the Presty were against sustain ing the ball; but the majority carried sustain. Mr guthree me of their present Baillies & an Elder, barther says matters with respect to Religion, wear a very gloomy aspect with

Mo; we had a very full and attentive bengregation; but I am afraid it will now be sally scattered, if his doctrine be such as we have twice heard from him, which was very much on the Ourninian strain, and contrary to what this Congregation has been austimed to hear" - well may this be said for a century part, under the ministry of Mofin John Willison, Robert gray, David Blair, Tho Matthisen, Andrew Brus de. othe majority of the Council were influenced by a Mr March, heir to Leve Manmure, who resides at the Cartle of Brechin; and in this matter he has mouled them compleatly: -I am sarry you have reason to be difratisfied with your situation; but I have no doubt if there had been a minister in Sevettand who was fitter for your place, he would have been called to it. "Man's goings are of the Low, how can a man then understand his own way"? you may not be treated with that reshed youdesone". The disuple is not above his marter, nor the Dewent above his low. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servans as his line. If they have persenter me, they will also persecute you. They hateome without a

hersecute you, and shall say all manner of wil against you falsely for my sake Rejone and be exceeding glad;

for great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they the brokhets which were before you. I am glad you have

Been onabled to send forth so many young men to prouch the goshel. Thope on reflection, this will balance all your troubles.

It affords much please hore at brevent to hear that the Trench have been obliged to avacuate It Domings, and that the remains of their army, said to be 5000, with their things of war, stores so have fallen into our hands.—

Our famaciamerchants, it is saw, have declared that they will ward no more Negroes for five years! the Slave trade it is hoped is near an end.

the Emperor of Rufsia has wrote our College to send him over Seventeen young men, as profoson to a College he is going to creet in some hart of his dominanished offers them a Salary of £250 storling each promisem.

I trouble you with the indosed framphlets, as a small token of the exteem I entertain for you; and if shared, will continue to send you more organion celly. I shall direct, as you mentioned, to the care of the New Damuel Miller, new york. — Below the seat of your letter was worde "Fawoured by your most ob. It Apobert Mulloch, New york 6" Now 1803." When as the School in Montrore, I hnew a young prior lad of this wame, who went to America; Is this he ?

you will be by the letter to Orinipal Hill , that meethers are not mended in our feneral Afsembly, and that we want your apritative as much as over. The new from the Hettentels

Hottoutets will afford you much pleasure. other the year I have plenty of time to write a friend, except in Jany when we Balance our Books, this will excuse this hasty Derawl. I wished much to let you, know the state of this country with regard to the war, and heard a ship would sail for new york from freenoch this week, and embrace the ophortunety. Is hall be grav to hear from you; and if shared, write not fail to let you know the ifsue of our present war. Reverend & Dear Sin your most ded! sert James Wheng

Lestentets will afford you much per men. where the year I shaw planter of lines of enters for in is son to he will be grape our grant in the property excess they bearthy stored a described much for taryour private the distant for mission with water to want and from the thing the war will be the the the the the Interior for the second our minutes of depart in your for me friet white property

Reverend & Dear Sir,

Your esteemed letter of the 4th Oct. I only received the 14th inst. I was afraid my last letter had miscarried, I was so long in hearing from you. With regard to the invasion of this country by France, we have been in a state of alarm for four months past. It was positively said this would take place in October, and well it is for this country that it did not happen then, as we were ill prepared to meet it. Since that time we have been arming, and have now in Great Britain and Ireland 720,000 men in arms, their number might have been much greater had all who offered their service been accepted, but government could not find arms for more. On the coast of England an army of 70,000 can be collected at any place in a day or two. In Edinburgh (where people are much afraid) there are about 10,000, and in the neighbouring towns are 10,000 more, which are ready at an hours notice. Lord Moira resides at Edin. as commander in chief for Scotland. He sent notice to the volunteers here lately (about 3,600) to be ready to march at an hours warning. At Leith there is an Admiral, and a number of armed ships &c. Some ships of war are placed at Campbeltown

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& Stranraen to guard Clyde. I see by the newspapers that a guard is kept at the point in the parish of Craig, and another at Lunan bay. So great is the demand for firelocks, that government has been obliged to arm some thousands of volunteers with pikes. There are no democrates in our country now; the gentlemen who were keenest in finding fault with government last war, are officers among volunteers now! In London there have been public meetings for prayer on account of the war, once a month since it commenced. In Edin. they have had a prayer meeting once a week since Aug. last. Here there has been a meeting for prayer in our Chapel of Ease on Tuesday evening weekly for some months; by two ministers; on Thursday evening the ministers of the town take turns a meeting in our laigh Kirk; on Monday evening our Relief clergy have meetings once a fortnight; on Wednesday evening our Antiburghers meet also, once a fortnight; on Thursday evening our Burghers meet once a week, and on Friday evening our Tabernacles meet once a three weeks for prayer.

Our fleets are as formidable as our armies, and watch the motions of the French so closely, that they cannot get out of their ports. We have a fleet off Toiclen which prevents any ships from getting in or out: Admiral Cornwallis has blocaded Brest with a large fleet, for nine months, except a few days when driven off his station by violent winds in the end of December. Only one of his ships received no damage, and

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and kept her station! We have a fleet on the coast of Holland, who watch the motions of the Dutch, who are dragged into the service of the French, and are longing for deliverance. We have also a fleet on the Irish coast and in the Downs &c &c. We are now so well prepared for the French that people wish they would make an attempt at invading us. We have heard a great deal of their preparations for this, by marching many thousands to their sea ports, and that some

hundreds of flat bottomed boats were built &c.

"On the 19th inst. there was another violent gale of wind on the coast of England. This hurricane was preceded by an uncommon agitation in the sea, which seemed to indicate an extraordinary conclusion of nature. The water in Falmouth harbour, about three hours before rose suddenly to the height of six or eight feet perpendicular, recoiled and rose, and rose again three successive times in the course of a few minutes! In the same manner it is remembered to have done in the time of the earthquake that destroyed Lisbon. It lasted from 5 o'clock p.m. till 12 at night; and has done great damage to houses shipping," &c.

I have not heard from Dr. Paton for several months. Last time I heard from him, he informed me that he had got an agreeable helper, a young gentleman from Edin. named Brewster. The present Lady of Rossie is pious, and was terrified in case of Dr. Paton's death, they would have a son of Dr. Hills' St. Andrew's Church in the parish, as the college

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college of St. Andrews are patrons to Craig. And finding Mr. Brewster a gospel preacher, she applied to Lord Malvill (formerly Henry Dundas) to use his influence with the college, that Mr. Brewster should be placed as helper & successor to Dr. Paton, which she obtained. A Mr. Coutts, minister in Breckin died about the same time, and the people of Breckin getting a hearing of Mr. Brewster, made choice of him for their minister, and a presentation for him was wrote for to the king, which was granted. Mrs. Ross of Rossie was greatly alarmed again at this circumstance, as she was certain Mr. Hill would be presented to Craig, and Dr. Paton to satisfy her, and his own mind, agreed to demit, and accordingly gave up his charge, and Mr. Brewster is now minister of Craig, and the Doctor, I suppose is now an inhabitant of Montrose, for Alex Molloson told me about three weeks ago, that his father wrote him, that he had preached the funeral sermon of a man who was sitting by his side in good health. I am very sorry to say that the town council of Breckin have erred exceedingly in their choice of another young man, a Mr. Whitson from about Blairgowrie, whose call was signed only by 15, and these mostly under influence. None of the Elders came forward, and some of the Presby were against sustaining the call, but the majority carried sustain. Mr. Guthrie one of their present Baillies & an Elder farther says "matters with respect to religion, wear a very gloomy aspect with us,

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us, we have had a very full and attentive congregation, but I am afraid it will now be sadly scattered, if his doctrine be such as we have twice heard from him, which was very much on the Armenian strain, and contrary to what this congregation has been accustomed to hear." Well may this be said for a century past, under the ministry of Mins. John Willison, Robert Gray, David Blair, Thos. Matthison, Andrew Bruce &c. The majority of the council were influenced by a Mr. Maul, heir to Lord Panmere, who resides at the Castle of Breckin, and in this matter he has mauled them completely.

I am sorry you have reason to be dissatisfied with your situation, but I have no doubt if there had been a minister in Scotland who was fitter for your place, he would have been called to it. "Man's going are of the Lord, how can a man then understand his own way?" You may not be treated with that respect you deserve. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you. They hated me without a cause. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." I am glad you have

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been enabled to send for so many young men to preach the gospel. I hope on reflection, this will balance all your troubles.

It affords much please here at present to hear that the French have been obliged to evacuate St. Domingo, and that the remains of their army, said to be 5000, with their ships of war, stores &c have fallen into our hands. Our Jamaica merchants, it is said, have declared that they will want no more Negroes for five years! The slave trade it is hoped is near an end.

The Emperor of Russia has wrote our College to send him seventeen young men, as professors to a college he is going to erect in some part of his dominion. He offers them a salary of 250 sterling each annum.

I trouble you with the inclosed pamphlets, as a small token of the esteem I entertain for you, and if shared will continue to send you more occasionally. I shall direct, as you mentioned, to the care of the Revd. Samuel Miller, New York. Below the seal of your letter was wrote, "Favoured by your most Ob St Robert McCulloch, New York 6th Nov 1803." When at the school in Montrose, I knew a young pious lad of this name, who went to America, is this he?

You will see by the letter to Principal Hill, that matters are not mended in our General Assembly, and that we want your assistance as much as ever. The news from the Hottentots

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Hottentots will afford you much pleasure.

Thro' the year I have plenty of time to write a friend except in Janry when we balance our books, this will excuse this hasty scrawl. I wished much to let you know the state of this country with regard to the war, and heard a ship would sail for New York from Greenock this week, and embraced the opportunity. I shall be glad to hear from you, and if shared, will not fail to let you know the issue of our present war. I am-

Reverend & Dear Sir Your most obed. Servt.

James McKenzie