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Title: Letter from Charles Nisbet to Unknown Recipient

Date: August 10, 1791

Location: MC 2001.7, B1, F10

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P. S. A farmer in the Neighbourhood of Chambersburgh, about thirty Miles
from this Place, accidentally discovered a great Body of Iron Ore on his land,
by endeavouring to cut down an old Tree when he found the Stump of it to be
impregnated with Iron. I have not heard of this Quality of Iron impregnat-
ing vegetable Substances, else one might be afraid to drink Mineral Waters,
And as this is a Bulky Curiosity, I hoped to have a Slice of it to send to
your Lordship, but as I could not obtain this soon, must delay it to another
Opportunity, for fear of losing the fall Ships. Dr. Barton a young Physician
an of Philadelphia is writing an Account of the Monuments of Antiquity
by that are said to be discovered in the Western Parts of this State. I would
have enclosed it if it had been published, but as it is said that he printed
Part of it in England, your Lordship may know more of the Matter than I
do. I hope that the Doctor will be so good natured as to suppose that these
are Antediluvian Antiquities, as if he goes into the Sentiments of the Count
de Buffon, & runs up the Age of this wretched World to 25,000. Year our
Infidels & Atheists will run quite mad, as they will then suppose their
System to be demonstrated by Experiments & Authentic Monuments. They
triumph not a little already on the human Skulls that have been found
in the Rock of Gibraltar, which Mr. Joubin has endeavoured to make
the most of, but such proofs would carry no more Evidence of Age, than a
live Toad found in a Block of Marble. An hundred more Frenchmen

have lately arrived at Alexandria, A Marquis & two Viscounts are said to
of the Number, but our News Writers have not been able to spell their Name
The Misfortunes of France seem not to be at an End, when the People are
leaving the Country. Perhaps they may be indirectly of some Service to this
Country, if the People were wise enough to profit either by their own Misfo-
tunes, or those of others. A Treaty is now concluded between the United States
& the Creek Indians, but Injuries are no less frequent on the Ohio & the
Western frontier. The Treaty has cost a great Deal of Money which may en-
able the Indians to do more Mischief, tho' it is generally supposed that the
White People are most commonly in the Wrong. But the innocent often suffer
instead of the guilty. I can hear of nothing publishing in this Country
that is worth Notice. Dr. Ramsay's short History of the Revolution gives
little Satisfaction here, except to those that are fond of every American
Performance. The Hurry of my Affairs & my Distance from the Coast,
have not permitted me to see it. The Transactions of the Philosophical
Society at Philadelphia & Boston, that I have seen, are mere Baubles,
& scarcely contain any thing of Importance.

C. N.

Dr. C. Mesbet — — Aug: 10. 1791.

[Carlisle, Pennsylvania]

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C.N.

Dr. C. Nisbet - Aug. 10. 1791 [*Marginalia in a different hand*]