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Title: Letters from Wilhelmina Nisbet to Charles Nisbet

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Novr 29th 99

Sir

I would have wrote before now to enquire after you, & to thank you for your kind visit; Had I not waited for a frank; & in the mean time a very mournfull event happened which gave much concern to this family & I truly believe that the Death of our worthy friend Lady Northesk, has given very general concern - her own family have sustained a very great loss, - But I have no time to enlarge upon this Extensive Subject -

I was much obliged to you for the frank manner in which you expressed a desire of complying with My request for a reading of your Lecture; had it been wrote - & still more for offering to gratifie my Inclination, by recollecting these pious meditations upon that Rich Psalm, & writing them out for me - I cannot deny myself so far as to decline so Instructive an offer, tho' sensible it must be attended with considerable trouble to
you

I therefore do thankfully accept of it, & when a Leisure hour
would permit, I beg you may fulfill the favour offer you
made of letting me have your thoughts, now, & then, upon some few
pages of Scripture as they may occur -- I have an Inter-
lined Bible, into which I have collected some Annotations,
particularly all that are to be found in Mr Harveys writ-
ings (Should be glad to ^{know your opinion} ~~hear~~ of these) It will do me a great
favour to send me some Notes for that purpose --

As you expressed a feeling regret at seeing so few books, I once
thought of sending ~~a few~~, but as that would be attended with
trouble, & as I might not hit upon those you would wish to have,
judge it better to send the enclosed, with a design to increase your
Library a little, if you chuse to put it to that use -- I shall only
point out Doddridges Life for one as it was mentioned when
you was here -- I beg you may take no Notice of this
when you write -- As Acknowledgements for trifles, really hurt
weak Nerves -- & you sympathize with these Sort of feelings

all this family I am in best Regards to you, & I beg
you may believe me with much Esteem, Dr Sir

your H^{ble} St^{ts} W^m L^l

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Nov.r 29th 79

Sir

I would have wrote before now to enquire after you, & to thank you for your kind visit; Had I not waited for a frank; & in the mean time a very mournfull event happened which gave much Concern to this family. I truly believe that the Death of our worthy friend Lady Northerk, has given very general concern- for our family have sustained a very great lose, - But I have no time to enlarge upon this Extensive Subject.

I was much obliged to you for the frank manner in which you expressed a desire of complying with my request for a reading of your Lecture; had it been wrote- & still more for offering to gratify my inclination, by recollecting these pious meditations upon that Rich Psalm, or writing them out for me. I cannot deny myself so far as to decline so instructive an offer, tho' sensible it must be attended with considerable trouble to you.

[Page Break]

I therefore do thankfully accept of it, & when a Leisure hour would permit, I beg you may fulfill the further offer made of letting me have your thoughts, now, & then, upon some few passages of scripture as they may occur. I have an interleaved Bible, into which I have collected some annotations, particularly all that are to be found in Mr. Harvey's writings (should be glad to know your opinion of these) It will do me a great favour to send me some notes for that purpose.

As you Expressed a feeling regret at seeing so few books, I once thought of sending a few, but as that would be attended with trouble, & as I might not hit upon those you would wish to have, judge it better to send the enclosed, with a design to encrease your Library a little, if you chuse to put it to that use. I shall only point out Doddrign Life for one as it was mentioned when you were here. I beg you may take no notice of this when you write, as acknowledgement for trifles, really hurt weak nerves. & your sympathy with these sort of feelings

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all this family join in best respects to you, & I beg you may believe me with much Esteem, Dear Sir

your H. St. WL

Dr Sir

March 9th 50

I had yours of Feb: 21, which gave me much satisfaction, & for which I do most Sincerely thank you - my good correspondents - & My Inclination consequently for of course for writing is much faln of Late - But where I meet with one whose Sentiments agree with My own in so many particulars as you have yet had Occasion to Mention; it encourages me to proceed in hopes of profiting - - As to your Sentiments of Sermons, They give me much pleasure - If I mistake them not - I suppose you give the preference to Sermons which affect the heart - which many condemn; for my part, these Sermons which affect not my heart, & draw tears from my eyes, have little Effect upon me at all - They go in at one Ear, & out at the other, without taking Lodging in the Memory - your
Just
Verdict of Commentators in general is also most - I never met with
of the few I have seen
one - but observed with Surprise - the Coldness with which they could

Great of the most enlightening truths — & thought you might know of
One of another Spirit, (Not but that those who write in a still not
^{so} animated are possessed of the true Spirit of the Gospel) who wrote
with more feeling than the generality of commentators do, & from
another view than critical Notes, & ~~difficult~~ Observations —

This made me prize Mr Harveys notes, he writes with such warmth,
& his Ideas are so Exalted — I am much obliged to you, & much
Edified by your Notes upon ^{the} other verses of the xxxii Ps, I say it
without an Idea of flattery (Indeed my opinion is little worth huan-
ing) that I think you would be a most proper Commentator, & this
opinion I dare say is not peculiar to me — Will be much indebted
to you for any addition to the Notes already collected in my Interlined
Bible, which are not many, mostly confined to Mr Harveys — I
cannot name any particular texts, or places — whatever strikes, or occurs
naturally to yourself will be most agreeable — & from time to time

as you find League, & Inelination - I suppose Notes from old
lectures, (If you have them) Abridged, would answer very well, but
I have some idea that you said you did not write your Lectures, which
is a pity - I am glad to find your health was improved when you
wrote last, - hope your family are all well, to which I grasp by your
Confidation you are much attached. - I have not been so well for
a week past, as for sometime before - The degree of health to which
I have been restored is a great blessing, demands My most thankful acknow-
ledgements to My Almighty Deliverer, - O. that more precious fruits may grow
after this New Lease of life, than has ever been done hitherto, & all be
dedicated to Him who has yet spared, & redeemed from the power of
the grave - - - - -

I tire of writing so will add no more, but ask your opinion
of Boston 1st Ser. Abridged, & his Dying Thoughts - converse with God
in solitude - all abridged by B: Fanevelt - & If you noticed a
letter

in the News (Lord: Cornhill) paper from Mr Wally Concerning
Popery - I think you would approve of all - I like these pieces
of Baxter very much perhaps you have not seen them in
this present State - My Lord & all the young people send their
best respects - & I am with much Esteem Dr Sir

your Humble Servt.

W. L.

you'll have heard that Mr Taylor of Paisly goes to Glasgow
Mr Burnside to Dumfries - A Mr Buchanan from Glasgow
Speke of for Litch - I think that is his name - Mr Bonner
might have gone to Glasgow had he inclined - but, uncommonly
wisely, thought himself too young for such a charge, & that it
might have been a loss to him in the most essential points -

Treat me Mr Worthy when you can procure a frank
write - shall send a frank for My Lord in which you may enclose
your letter to Me -

March 9th 80

Dr Sir

I had yours of Feb. 21, which gave me much satisfaction, & for which I do most sincerely thank you. my good correspondents. & my inclination consequently (or of course) for writing is much calm of Late. But where I meet with one whose sentiments agree with my own in so many particulars as you have yet had occasion to mention; it encourages me to proceed in hopes of profiting. As to your sentiments of sermons, they give me much pleasure. If I mistake them not. I suppose you give the preference to sermons which affect the heart. which many condemn,. for my part, these sermons which affect not my heart, & draw tears from my eyes; have little effect on me at all. they go in at one ear & out at the other, without taking lodging in the memory. your verdict of Commentators in gospel is also most just. I never met with one of the few I have seen. but observed with surprise. the coldness with which they could

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treat of the most enlivening truth. & thought you might know of one of another spirit, (not but that those who write in a stile not so animated are prophesied of the true spirit of the gospel) who wrote with more feeling than the generality of the commentators do, & from another view than Critical Notes, & Observations. This made me prize Mr. Harvey's notes, he writes with such warmth, & his ideas are so exalted. I am much obliged to you, & much edified by your notes upon the other verses of the XXXII Pls., I say it without an idea of flattery. (Indeed my opinion is little worth having) that I think you would be a most proper Commentator, & this opinion I daresay is not peculiar to me. Will be much indebted to you for any addition to the notes already collected in my interleaved bible; which are not many, mostly confined to Mr. Harveys. I cannot name any particular texts, or psalms. whatever strikes, or occurs naturally to yourself will be most agreeable. & from time to time

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as you find Leisure, & inclination. I suppose notes from old Lectures, (if you have them) Abridged, would answer very well, but I have some idea that you said you did not write your Lectures, which is a pity. I am glad to find your health was improved when you wrote last, hope your family are all well, to which I grasp by your constitution you are much attached. I have not been so well for a week past, as for sometime before. The degree of health to which I have been restored is a grave blessing, demands my most thankfull acknowledgment to my Almighty Saviour. O! that more precious fruits may grow after this New Lease of Life, then has ever done hitherto, & all be dedicated to Him who has yet spared, & redeemed from the power of the grave.

I tire of writing so will add no more, but ask your opinion of Baxter [*two words illegible*] Abridged, & his Dying Night. Converse with God in Solitude. All abridged by B. Fawcett.? & If you noticed a letter

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in the News (Lord: Chronicle) paper from Mr. Wesly concerning Popery. I think you would approve of all. I like these pious of Baxter very much perhaps you have not seen them in their present state. My Lord & all the young people send their best respects. & I am with much Esteem Dr Sir,

Your Humble Servt.

W. L.

Nov: 4th 83

Dear Sir

I had the favour of yours, & really take it as
such, for although your pen writes readily, it cannot be
called the pen of a ready writer, neither is mine, I am sure
for whatever it has been, I find a great change, with I could
say that Indolence, tho' I dislike the idea of it, was the
only cause of ^{my} unwillingness to write. But if I ever had any
any genius for it, it is now lost, of this I must not delude
giving you a Specimen, to convince you that I am not im-
possible of your favour - and therefore write perhaps a
few, perhaps many lines, in answer to your valuable letter
for which I thank you - & give you joy of your Victory -
As Matters seem to go on slowly it will probably come to be
another act of - if then it be referred? - - - - -

Your expectations concerning the effects of peace have been
different from mine - I earnestly wish you had been right, but
I always dreaded that when the war ceased people would
then imagine they had less to fear, - & their minds consequent-
ly become more dissipated especially with regard to secular
affairs, as it made a new opening for trade, - As for the
other ~~and~~ warnings from providence, most awful indeed
they have been, - & I trust that those who have been more immedi-
ately concerned have been led to repentance by the judgements
of God! but at this distance they seem to have had no effect,
- neither does the dire full effects of war, or threatened famine,
which so many have suffered by; appear to have accomplished
the purpose for which they were sent - By all accounts we
continue to protract more, & more, - Extravagance, & Luxury
Daily increases - - God! only knows what the consequences
will

will be — He knows what we deserve — No Nation has better
reason to say that judgment is his strange work, & that it is of
His Mercy that we are not Consumed! — As for the Unitarian
Sect which you mention as lately created at Montrose; it is
pretty plain that God has not joined them together; therefore
Endeavours may be used to put them asunder, — Yet I dare
say, upon opposition in the readiest way to make these small
beginnings to grow, & flourish, — I remember to hear that
Barclay was sadly disappointed because he was not perse-
cuted — I just now read a preface which I will
transcribe as ~~it~~ somewhat to the purpose — "It is well
we should tremble for fear, & stand amazed when we behold
the most grievous judgment of God, & (Viz) how he confounds &
understanding of it deemed of this world; — whilst many persons,
not indeed destitute of a good natural understanding, &
Sagacity,

are so offended at the great simplicity of the Holy Scriptures, that
they have found out divers ways of inverting the sense of clear
words - & use their utmost endeavours to deny their plain mean-
ing, draw them to a foreign sense; & accommodate them to the
of their corrupt reason. Although the words themselves be so mani-
festly plain as to glare in their eyes; the Example of
these Men, who look upon these words of St. John - (1 John 1:1)
as divinely inspired, & nevertheless Impugn of
eternal Divinity, & Majesty of our Lord J. Christ, ought
to render us cautious, & Circumspect, that we do not pervert
the Holy writings to our own distraction - On the contrary
of we strive with the greatest Earnestness to receive the plain
truths of God: with plain & honest hearts - & Earnestly pray
to him for the true sense thereof, that in his Light we may see
Light - - - O Lord incline our Ears to hear, & take
away

Nov.r 4th 83

Revd. Sir

I had the favour of yours, & really take it as such, for although your pen writes readily, it cannot be called the pen of a ready writer, neither is mine, I am sure for whatever it has been, I find a great change, wish I could say that indolence, tho' I dislike the idea of it, was the only cause of my unwillingness to write. But if I ever had any genius for it, it is now lost, of this I must not delay giving you a specimen, to convince you that I am not insensible of your favour. and therefore write perhaps a few, perhaps many lines, in answer to your Valuable letter for which I thank you. & give you joy of your Victory. As matters seem to go on slowly it will probably come to be another act go. if then it be restored?

[Page Break]

Your expectations concerning the effects of peace have been different from mine. I earnestly wish you had been right, but I always dreaded that when the war ended people would then imagine they had less to fear, & their minds consequently became more dissipated especially with regard to secular affairs, as it made a new opening for trade. As for the other warnings from providence, most awfull indeed they have been, & I trust that those who have been more immodestly concerned have been led to repentance by the judgement of God! But at this distance they seem to have had no effect, neither does the dire full effects of war, or threatened famine, which so many have suffered by; appear to have accomplished the purpose for which they were sent. By all account we continue to prevock more, & more. Extravagance, & Luxury daily encreases. God! only knows what the consequences will

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will be. He knows what we deserve. No Nation has better reason to say that judgment is his strange work, & that it is of His Mercy that we are not consumed! As for the Unitarian Sect which you mention as likely erected at Montrose; it is pretty plain that God has not joined them together; therefore endeavours may be used to put them asunder. Yet I daresay, open opposition is the readiest way to make these small beginning to grow, & flourish. I remember to hear that Barclay was sadly disappointed because he was not prosecuted.

I just now send a passage which I will transcribe as somewhat to the purpose. "It is meet we should tremble for fear, & stand amazed when we behold the most grievous judgment of God, (Viz) seems he confounds at understanding of & Learned of this we, whilst many perform, not indeed delectable of a good natural understanding, & sagacity,

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are so offended at the great simplicity of the Scriptures, that they have found out devious ways of inverting the sense of clear words, & use their utmost endeavours to deny their plain meaning, draw them to foreign place; & accommodate them to the taste of their corrupt reason. Although the words of themselves be so manifestly possionous as to glare in their eyes; The example of

these men, who lash upon the word of St. John. (Ch. is referred to) as divinely inspired, & nevertheless Imposing the Eternal Divinity, & Majesty of Our Lord J. Christ, ought to render us cautious, & circumspect, that we do not pervert the Holy writings to our own destruction. On the contrary we strive with the greater earnestness to receive the plain truths of God! with plain & honest hearts, & earnestly pray to him for the true sense thereof, that in his Light we may see Lights.

“O Lord incline our ears to hear, & take away

Dr Sir

I had your long letter, & do verily regrave
the trouble you take in writing to me as one of your advisers
which I have told you I never would pretend to be - Tho I found
an irresistible desire of offering some thoughts that occurred to
my weak judgment perhaps ill supported by proof, or argument, &
also too partial to be sustained as weighty & I see the wife, & good,
often so different of their own judgement, in matters of importance,
that they think it their duty to argue, & Act, in opposition to their
own inclination, from a dread that a bias that way, may lead them
to measures contrary to the will & providence of God - but to such
tender consciences does not God in mercy ordinarily make the way
clear, & scatter the clouds that darken their minds, too much consult-
ing with flesh & blood is not the way to come to the knowledge of
the truth - (but I need not tell you this) these who advise to the
side that nature leads to are suspected of partiality - while
Some

who put Nature out of the Scale for ~~others~~ ~~and~~ ~~find~~ it a more
weighty matter were they ballancing for themselves — I think the
Lord in Mercy often forms our Nature; ^{at} ~~tempor~~ according to the work
to be done — you are not endued with a hardy Spirit or seem
formed for Enterprize, or the "buffle of publick life," perhaps you
may step out of your proper Sphere of action in contradiction to
your own Inclination from a Dread of Swifull Indulgence — Surely
there are many arguments on the Staying side — very weighty, as
well as upon the Side of Removing, — It ^{is} the part of a Druff to
Illustrate them — I do not think His fixing upon you at the dis-
tance ^{of} 20 years, at all Surprising — it is a question if he
had heard much lauding people in your line during that time,
& scarce of any ^{one} whose Character he could depend on as friendly to
Am: So that he had (perhaps) no choice, unless upon your refusal
he had made Enquiry — & consulted with you, & others for a proper
one, who had left to detain him — By the providence of God / on this
Side the At: — ^{than you have} I hope this is no Improper parenthesis — in
out your Long Settlement in a Charge, Age, tho' not a 100 — & a

a wife & family beauty of providence - & detaining arguments
of some weight? - when the present coll^{ed}, certainly appears
far from clear, - & is at best but an indegedated good Scheme, of
the Maturity of which, one may Lawfully entertain great Doubts
Considering the Contentions & - - - - - that at
present appears to be among them, - your Deans of the other side of
the water, present I am assured, a too flattering picture, - what good
reason is there to believe that they are a Sheet of Clean paper as you seem
to think they are, - "Every thing to form, the minds of Men free from the
Shackles of authority, can surer guide to reason" & & & - I wish I
could see good reason to see with your eyes the people there in such
a favorable light; but tho' I have ^{have} ever been partial to them, & fought
many small battles for them, - I cannot believe but they are like our-
selves, much Improved in the know ledge, & practice of Evil, - &
we read of Contentions, & animosities begun, & carrying on with
a high hand; & while there are so ^{many} Masters, I fear there will be
constant desertion among them - I thought I had put finis, to
this Subject when I wrote to you the end of last Month, - but one
word brings on another, & it is said of our Sex that we like

always to have the best; but this is not the case with me, for I
like to have you in my Debt which is the reason I am so Swift
to reply - Little for your ease, - but I can wait your time till the
Convenient Season come, - & what ans^{rs} you get concerning some
Important queries you Expected to have solvd; before you made
any Resolution - I am always angry at myself for saying too
much upon a Subject where I have so little to advise & get always
fall into the same Error, tho' ready to Confess myself the unwittid of all your
Sarcupendents to ~~benefit~~ ^{benefit} either by prayer, or advice - Tho' I doubt
by wish it was otherwise -

I told Mr Stone for your Difficultys - & as Impartially as I could
your reasons for, & adv^{ce}; He seems to think that the State of affairs
there, & more Especially concerning that Colledge, are very precarious, & it
ought to be further advanced, & the State of affairs more settled, before
... or prudent to Engage, or for one to leave their country where
they are of great use which he is certain in the Case with you, & a
very wise Legation Man he appears to be -

The People of Moravia are Exceedingly happy in having got Mr
Horn for their Min^{er} & likewise rejoice that My Lord was
Victorim over all the means that could possibly be used to

Defeat their settlements - but this must be the business of Converse
Finn not of Arapwoodance - about 200 of them came here on
Sabbath to hear him - in a shower of rain & high wind &
said they were well requited for their trouble - an Elder said
that had S. L. given the P: of Meek; those things he
wd not have made them half so happy - Adam - it is not
from having much time to spare, that I write you such a
long letter, but for the return with which I am your
Sincere Believer -

Nov 20th

When an opportunity offers we will be very glad to see
you - L. B. Leaves as before, or about 3. o'clk, with you
and have seen them - Lord B. wd like to hear all your
Ideas - concerning many things - I do not rightly understand
what you say concerning the E: India Camp: & the proposed
Excels -

Lady Leven
1783.

L. Leven.

Dr. Misbet Montrose



I have never been able yet to get the
mossy that had your letter in it

[Nov. 20, 1783]

Dr Sir

I had your long letter, & do verily regret the trouble you take in writing to me as one of your advisers which I have told you I never would pretend to be. Tho' I found an Irresistible Desire of offering some thoughts that Occurred to my weak judgment perhaps ill supported by source, or argument, & also too partial to be sustained or weighty. I see the wise, & good, often so different of their own judgment, in matters of importance, that they fail in their duty to agree, & not, in opposition to their own justification, from a dread that a bias that way, may send them to measures contrary to the will a providence of God. but to such tender conformers does not God in mercy ordinarily make the way clear, & scatter the clouds that darken their minds, too much confessing with flesh & blood is not the way to come to the knowledge of the truth. (but I need not tell you this) those who advise to the side that nature lends to are suspected of partiality. while some

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who put nature out of the scale for one would find it a more weighty matter were they balancing for themselves. I think the Lord in Mercy often forms our natural things on according to the work to be done. you are not endowed with a hardy spirit or seem formed for enterprise, or the "battle of publick life," perhaps you may step out of your proper sphere of action in contradiction to your own inclination from a dread of sinfull indulgence. Surely there are many arguments on the staying side very weighty, as well as upon the side of Removing. Had I the pen of a Rush to illustrate them. I do not think His fixing upon you at the distance even of 20 years, at all surprising. it is a question if he had heard much concerning people in your time during that time, & seems of any one whose character he would depend on as friendly to him; so that he had (perhaps) no Choice, unless upon your refusal he had made Enquiry. & consulted with you, & often for a proper one, who had less to detain him (by the providence of God) on this side of the At. than you have. I hope this is no improper parentheses. in out your Long settlement in a change, Age tho' not a 100), & a

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a wife & family beautys of providence- & detaining arguments of some weight? When the present call abroad certainly appears far from clear, & is at best but an indigated good scheme, of the maturity of which, one may Lavishly Entertain great doubt considering the contentions. that at present appears to be among them; your ideas of the other side of the water, present I am afraid, a too flattering picture; what good reason is there to believe that they are a sheet of clean paper as you seem to think they are. "Every thing to form, the minds of man free from the shackles of authority, can easier yield to reason" etc. I wish I could see good reason to see with your eyes the people there in such a favourable light; but tho' I have even been partial to them, & have fought many small battles for them; I cannot believe but they are like ourselves, much improved in the knowledge, & practice of Evil; & are read of portentous, & animositys begun, & carrying on with a high hand, & which there are so many masters, I fear there will be constant

deseccration among them. I thought I had put finis, to this subject when wrote to you the end of last month; but one word brings on another, & it is said of our sex that we like

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always to have the last; but this is not the case with me, for I like to have you in my debt which is the reason I am so swift to reply. Little for your Ease, but I can wait your time till the Convenient season comes, & what answers you get concerning some important queries you expected to have solved, before you made any Resolution. I am always angry at myself for saying too much upon a subject where I have so little time to advise & yet always fall into the same error, tho' ready to confess myself the unfittest of all your correspondents to be of able, either by prayer, or advice. Tho' I honestly wish it was otherwise.

I told the theme for your difficultys; & as Impartially as I could your reason for, & agt. It seems to think that the state of affairs there, & those especially concerning the Colledge, are very precarious, & it ought to be further advanced, & the state of affairs more settled, before it can be prudent to engage, or for one to leave their country where they are of great use which he is certain in the case with you, & a very wise sagacious man he appears to be.

The Parish of [*one word illegible*] are exceedingly happy in having got their stone for their mill & likewise rejoice that my Lord was victorious over all the means that could possibly be used to

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defeat this settlement. but this must be the baseness of conversation not correspondence. about 200 of them came here on the Sabbath to hear him. in a shower of rain & high wind, & said they were most requited for their trouble. an Elder said that had Ld. L. given the P. of Mark: three Hund gs. he would not have made them half so happy. Adeu, it is not from having much time to spare, that I write you such a long letter, but for the esteem with which I am your sincere wellwisher.

Nov.r 20th

When an opportunity offers we will be glad to see you. Ld. B. Leaves as before, or about [*two words illegible*], wish you could have seen them. Lord B. would like to hear all your ideas, concerning many things. I do not rightly understand what you say concerning the E. India Comp. & the farfated estates.

Dr Sir

I had yours, with the enclosed the day I have forgot,
being wholly engrossed by the present Distress in this family, — Lord R^s
& Sen, one of the finest Creatures I ever Saw, has been near three weeks
in weak power so that his life is despaired of, & of all appearance he could
live long — I must leave all Reflections upon this Melancholy Event to
your pious Mind — for my part I am so overcome with the thoughts
of God's goodness, in bestowing so many Comforts of this Nature, — & con-
tinuing them so long, by his long suffering, & joyful ease, that I cannot
get utterance to speak of it, it will become us to be submissive to
his Divine will in all things, — parting with such bewitching Comforts is
not an easy duty, — but ^{by} the goodness of God! which endureth contin-
ually — & is ever a present help in the time of need — he makes his grace
to be sufficient for us, & his strength perfect in our weakness. My
dearly beloved Mary — like the Mother of our Lord Pardon these
things

in her heart, & truly behaves in a most exemplary Manner, - calm
& quiet as a weaned child, waiting the Lords will, & adoring him
as the author of all her Mercies, & Justifying him when calling for
what he gives - I could write a long Treatise on this Sweet tho' Melan-
choly Subject, Did not My Duty call me to be with her, ^{almost} every hour, at

when she is not laid for rest, & indeed I am wonderfully enabled
to do more than could be expected from my ^{small} bodily strength, & present
feelings - but to the praise of God be it said - I have ever found
this to be the Case -!

I cannot mention the half of the observations that occur to my
mind upon perusing yours, & the enclosed; only this in general I
think is plain, that you ought to be in no hurry with your pro-
posed Determination - As the foundation of the College seems not
yet to be laid - I said before that it would be a dreadful
Dow to me to say any thing ag^t. a Cause call'd in providence, & ^{also}

it would give me pain to think of counteracting a design & success
of my kind friend Dr. R. whose name upon one particular
acct. ^{Especially} will be ever Dr. to me, & all this family - & I would be sorry
to be stand over know that I wrote to you upon this subject, - But
at the same time, as a fool may give a wise man a Council, I
cannot help saying what occurs to me on this subject, - I find / by
what I can learn / that the whole originates from him - his temper
is warm, & lively, & has the same impression upon the people there,
that his importunate cogitations have had upon you, - his Eloquence
I have had much experience of, by a long Correspondence with this fam-
ily - & by his performing, & overcoming all Dr. W.'s Difficulties -
^{The small I think compared to yours}
which were many & great - How do you know if that 40 of
the board of trustees will all continue in one mind - especially as
they are composed of all Sects -? How will you agree wth the duty of
^{know}
I am trusting every day you - How do you, but that Dr. W. is
in

you, & other good people, are as much needed as they can be
any where, makes me think it necessary to give only this hint to
take good heed & ponder well the path of duty - No doubt you
have done this - but Oh! it is sometimes hard to know, & it is a
great mercy when the Lord sets a plain path before us - you
seem to make little act of the Removal of an obscure Individual
but then you wd not do, if that Individual was not yourself - we
should not, I believe, so much consider, whom the Lord will raise up, us
to work the work given us to do, - I tremble while I mention this, &
ready to blot it out, - when I compare myself with the person to whom
I write; - but if there is any few to do the Lords work among us
an obscure Individual is of great Importance, - we see what great
things have been done sometimes by an Individual - I dare say it
will ever be your chief end to glorify God, wherever, or in whatsoever
he is pleased to employ you - but surely you need not leave this Country
to seek opportunities of greater usefulness, - & you say yourself that we
should bless God that we are not persecuted for the faith, or obliged to
fly to different Countries for Safety" - "We should be thankful for
the tranquillity of our Station, & Labour to improve it to the Honour of
the giver of all good and" I should think the call to such a
sort of Vigorous Duty, was more the province of pious young men

Then one come to your time of life, with such an Indifferent State of
health as you enjoy —

I took a spare half hour to scribble this, at two different times, since
it was begun, it has pleased God to call away from us our very Dear little
Lamb — I ~~can~~ only add that many merciful circumstances might be men-
tioned — O that I could ever be watchful in searching out the unnumberable
instances of that Love that never faileth — Alas! it is little of it we
know — I in particular inexorably regret, to observe, & improve, the
operation of His hands, who in ~~many~~ our employments in doing what is good, &
best for us — I'm sure you would be pleas'd to see My Dr. Mary's behavior
upon this Occasion, — who, tho' one of the most affect^d, attentive mothers,
who devotes her whole time to her children, is nevertheless so composed, &
rejoic'd as could be wish'd — What a mercy? — We have been truly much
affect'd, & no wonder, upon this Occasion, — May the Lord Sanctify
the dispensation, & unite our hearts more (loyally to himself), & be
warning them more, & more from the Love of the Creature — pray for
us Dr. Sir — & believe me with much esteem & — your sincere
well-wisher —

July 26th 84

484196
July 26 1784

A. Lewis

[July 26, 1784]

Dr Sir

I had yours, with the enclosed the day I have forgot, being wholly engrossed by the present distress in this family; Lord R's 2nd Son, one of the finest creatures I oversaw, has been near three weeks in warm fever so that his life is despaired of; & to all appearance he cannot live long. I must have all reflections upon this melancholy event to your pious mind. for my part I am so overcome with the thoughts of God goodness, in listening so many comforts of this nature; & continuing them so long, by his long suffering, & Indulgence, that I cannot get utterance to speak of it, it well becomes us to be submissive to his divine will in all things; parting with such bewitching comforts in not our every duty; but by the goodness of God! which endureth continually; & in even a present help in the time of need. he makes his grave to be sufficient for us, & his strength perfect in our weakness. My dearly beloved Mary, like the mother of our Lord Pardon these things

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in her heart, & truly behaves in a most exemplary Manner; calm & quiet as a weaned child, waiting the Lords will, & adoring him as the author of all her Makings; & Justifying him when calling for what he gave. I could write a long time on this sweet tho' melancholy subject, did not my duty call me to be with her almost every hour, when she is not laid for rest, & indeed I am wonderfully enabled to do more than could be expected from my small bodily strength, & present feelings. but to the praise of God be it said, I have ever found this to be the case!

I cannot mention the last of the observations that ocean to my mind upon perusing yours, & the enclosed; only this in general I think is plain, that you ought to be in no hurry with your positive determination, as the foundation of the Colledge seems not yet to be Laid. I said before that it would be a dreadfull idea to me to say anything agt. a clear call in providence, & also

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it would give me pain to think of counteracting a design & earnest wish of my kind friend Dr. R; whose name upon one particular acct. Especially will be ever Dr. to me, & all this family; & I would be sorry he should ever know that I wrote to you upon this subject. But at the same time, as a fool may give a wise man a council, I cannot help saying what occurs to me on this subject; I find (by what I can learn) that the whole originates from him; his temper is warm, & lively, & has the same impression upon the people there, that his importunate capitulations have had upon you; his Eloquence I have had much experience of, by a long correspondence with this family; & by his persevering and overcoming all Dr. W's Difficultys, which were many & great tho' small I think compared to yours. How do you know if that 40 of the board of trustees will all continue in one mind, especially as they are composed of all sects? How will you agree wt the duty of Laws teaching Every day. How do you know but that Dr W. is in

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the right, & that he is truly your friend in dissuading you from going; he is a good man, & we should not suppose that mercenary Venis would lead him, to mislead on B.r? Have you a turn for managing a farm, & improving Land? Consider the great difficultys that have been surmounted (if they are surmounted?) in bringing this Colledge to a bearing? Which is not yet come the length of the Infant described by the good Dr. I find that much of the good op. conceived of you in that concern Rests upon Mr. Bowin Evidence; & how do you know but that like Dr. W, you ~~will~~ might not carry the same character back with you, to Scotland that [*one word illegible*] you carry'd from it to Am. It is a business of Importance which like matrimony should be well weighed, as it cannot never be undone with honour. Remember that I write to you in confidence, never to be read but by yourself. but your situation craves the attention & interference of your friends, wish I was a utterance to advise, indeed it is presuming too far to say so much as I have done, but the dread of your being decoyed away from your country, & friends, when

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you, & other good people, are as much needed as they can be any where, makes me think it necessary to give only this hint to take good heed & ponder well the path of duty. no doubt you have done this. but oh! it is sometimes hard to know, & it is a great mercy when the Lord set a plain path before you. you seem to make little act. of the Removal of an Obscene Individual but this you need not do, if that Individual was not yourself. we should not, I believe, so much consider, whom the Lord will raise up, as to work the work given us to do; I tremble while I mention this, & ready to blot it out; when I compare myself with the person to whom I write; but if there is very few to do the Lords work among us an Obscene Individual is of great importance; we see what great things have been done sometimes by an individual. I dare say it will ever be your chief end to glorify God, whenever, or in whatever way he is pleased to employ you. but surely you need not leave this country to seek opportunity of greater usefulness; & you say yourself "that we should bless God that we are not perfected for the faith, or obliged to fly to different countrys for Safety." "We should be thankfull for the tranquility of our station, & labour to improve it to the honour of the giver of all good things." I should think the call to such a sort of Vigourous Duty, was more the province of pious young men

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then one come to your time of life, with such an indifferent state of health as you enjoy.

I took a spare half hour to scribble this, at two different times since it was begun, it has pleased God to call away from us our very dear little lamb. I must only add that many merciful interventions might be mentioned. O! that I could ever be watchfull in something unnumerable instances of that same that never doubteth. Alas! it is little of it we know. I in particular inexcusably neglect, to Observe, & Improve, the operation of His hands, who is every ever employed in doing what is good, & best for us. Im sure you would be pleased to see my Dr. Mary's behaviour upon this occasion; who, tho' one of the most affectiont, attentive mothers who devotes he whole time to her childn; is nevertheless as composed & resigned as could be wished. what a mercy! we have been timely much affected, & no wonder, upon this occasion; May the Lord Sanctify the dispensation; & unite our hearts more closely to himself; & be warming them

more, & more from the Lord of the Creature. pray for us Dr. Sir. & believe me with much esteem &c.

Your Sincere Wellwisher.

L. Leven [*written upside-down*]

July 26th 84

May 19th 84

Friend Sir

I was not unimpressed of the business you mentioned
to me in your last, tho' ^{no} confessions I could be of little use in the
channel you pointed out - I therefore did not try my no power
with the people you pointed out, but at 2^d hand made an
attempt that I judged would have more influence - I was
pleas'd to find that that settlement is in the terms you wish,
& will, It is to be hoped conclude amicably -

Having received
I wonder that you have not mentioned when writing to Mr M^r
a very long letter I wrote to you, with your American letters
enclosed - I am anxious to know that it came safe to hand
I shall now enclose a frank that you may not scruple to
write to me, & take the use of them while we can have
any benefit - You will see by the N: Papers that

Lord Selkirk is now a Married Man - I beg you'll
remember them in your prayers - She is the Son: of pious
parents - Her Father indeed a Nonconformist -

As the post is going I can only add that I am with
much Esteem - your H: S: -

Lady Green
Aug. 1784

It would be too late to refer any more
frankly so I do not send it

Yours
Dr. Nisbet

Augt 19th 84

Revd. Sir

I was not unmindfull of the business you mentioned to me in your last, tho' conscious I could be of little no use in the chance you pointed out. I therefore did not try my No power with the people you pointed out, but at 2d hand made an attempt I judged would have more Influence. I was pleased to find that that settlement is in the terms you wish, & will, It is to be hoped conclude amicably.

I wonder that you have not mentioned when writing to Mr. M. having received a very long letter I wrote to you, with your American letters enclosed. I am anxious to know that it came safe to hand Shall now enclose a frank that you may not scruple to write to me, & take the use of them while we ever have any Benifits.

You will see by the N. Papers that

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Lord Bolgonis is now a married man. I beg youll remember them in your prayers. She is the Dau. of pious parents. Her father indeed a Nonesuch. as the post is going I can only add that I am with much esteem,

your [*two symbols illegible*].