

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letters from Wilhelmina Nisbet to Charles Nisbet

Date: 1785-1788

Location: MC 2001.7, B1, F33-37

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Jan: 14th 88

Sir

I intended to have wrote to you before now had
not the high portage laid an Embargo - Mr M. has been
so good as to give me a reading of your letter to him which
in the course of my taking the pen immediately in case I
should by mistake, be (scaped among your Martinian R. Honble
friends - that I may assure you, that whoever those may be, I
never was among the number - but had penetration enough
upon the first reading, to discover the true import of the words
& I really think it required but a small degree of it to pass a
true judgment upon them by any person who knows the
Authors Manner, & feelings - I thought the words alluded
to could never have been construed in any light but in Jest,
Tho' the author had been unknown; but Surely none that
know the humanity of your Dispositions, & your sympathy with
all in Distress could suppose you guilty of hard Measures - I
think

it was not prudent to write in that style to such a distance

The other particulars of your letter to Mr W: I remember little about, the Note about the Long elixir being the only thing I heard taken notice of, & on which I was at no loss for a Commentary - I hope you keep good health - in this severe Season, both My L: & I have been ailing - he has shared in a Distemper very Epidemical of late in Many places - a Complaint in the bowels attended with a flux, - he is now pretty well again - a great Mercy - Among many ^{to this family} that cannot be numbered -

No word of the Ship our Son David Sailed in for Gib: the End of Nov: which is Matter of great Anxiety to my mind - Mr Eskins only Remaining Son has been very ill, & is still far from Well - they doctored Water in his head - the Worthy man my Love - I only got your letter yestern: from Mr M: he only got it himself on Sat: as he has been in E: - I grieve that you should pay 3^d for this, but did not wish that you should suppose me so ignorant of your Christian Disposition as to misconstruct your words when they could bear the meaning that meant

No evil — In haste Adams — I take the opportunity of
our Couriers to send this to Ed? —

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

Lady Leven
19. Jan 4. 1785

5

The Good

Dr. Chau's is best

Mentrose

1785

Jan. 19th 85

Dr. Sir

I intended to have wrote to you before now had not the high portage Laid an Embargo. Mr. M. has been so good as to give Me a reading of your letter to him which is the cause of my taking the pen Immediately In case I should by mistake, be classed among your mistaken Rc. Humble friends. that I may assure you, that whoever those may be, I never was among the number. but had penetration enough upon the full reading, to discover the true impact of the words & I really think it required but a small degree of it to put a true judgment upon them by any person who knows the Authors Manner, & feelings. I thought the words attended to could never have been construed in any light but in jest, Tho' the author had been unknown; but surely none that know the harmony of your Dispositions, & your sympathy with all in distress could suppose you guilty of hard measures. I think

[Page Break]

I was not prudent to write in that stile to such a distance. The other particular of your letter to Mr. W. I remember little about, the Note about the [*one word illegible*] being the only thing I heard taken notice of; & on which I was at no loss for a commentary. I hope you keep good health. in this severe season, both my Ld. & I have been ailing. he has shared in a destemper any epidemical of late in many places. a complaint in the bauch attended with a flux; he is now pretty well again. A great mercy. Among many to this family that cannot be numbered. No word of the ship our Dr. son David sailed in for Gib: the End of Nov.r which is matter of great anxiety to my mind. Dr. Ethan the only Remaining Son has been very ill, & is still far from well. they doused Water in his head. the Worthy man may live. I only got your letter yesterd. from Mr. M. he only got it himself on Sat. as he has been Edr. I grudge that you should pay 3d for this, but did not wish that you should suppose me so ignorant of your Christian disposition as to misconstrue your words when they could bear ~~no~~ meaning that meant

[Page Break]

no evil. In haste adieu. I take the opportunity of Our Carrier to send this to Edr.

March 23^d 85

Reverend & worthy Sir

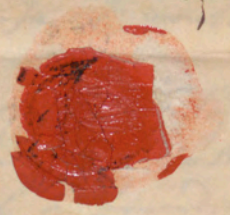
It was lucky for me that your
Final departure was sudden, & unexpected the day you left M,—
I had no apprehension it was to be the last meeting — It is always
very hard upon me to bid adieu to a friend, much more especially
when I never expect to see them again — you have by this time
felt enough of this trial, which to me is always affecting — I
intended writing to you before now, but unwilling to put you to the
expense of postage solicited for some private conveyance, but
upon hearing accidentally, that you was to be at Dundee on Wed.
on your way to Greenock — I take ^{up} the pen to express my
good wishes for a safe, & easy passage & that you may be preserved
for valuable purposes — I heartily sympathize with Mrs H — if her
Vitals are not near, she must suffer deeply — I beg you may write
to me sometimes — & do not conceal the truth if matters do not answer
your Expectation — I still think you have been hurried off this Stage

which I do most sincerely regret — My Worthy friend Dr. Knapp
& I would be antipodes in your affairs — I beg however that you
will assure him of My constant Love, & regard, for the friendly duty
He performed to the last remains of, Him, who I Loved as My own
Self — I have half wrote several letters to him, & write him many
in My thoughts, but never could get one accomplished that pleased me,
My dear has wrote to the Dr., three, or four times, both before, &
since hostilities ceased, I hope he got some of those, I would not
for any thing have him suspect any diminution of the gratefull
of the regard due to one who shewes
Love which all this family will ever return, ~~to~~ such a friend, in a
himself to be
far Country — It gives us great pleasure to Learn from time to time,
that he is so happy in his Domestic concerns. — I have desired my
Daughter to put into your keeping a Small box Directed for Dr.
Knapp, which you will be so good as take care of, & deliver to him.

I write this in a hurry having no time to lose — I shall wish
you, & family well, in all places, & at all times — being with much
Esteem, & regret your H: S: W. L.

Lady Liver

March 23-85



The Revd
Chas. Nesbitt

Since
for any

March 23d 85

Reverend & worthy Sir

It was lucky for me that your final departure was sudden, & unexpected the day you left m; I had no apprehension it was to be the last meeting. It is always very hard upon me to bid adieu to a friend, much more especially when I never expect to see them again. you have by this time felt enough of this trial, which to me is always affecting. I intended writing to you before now, but unwilling to put you to the expense of passage waited for some private conveyance, but upon hearing accidentally, that you was to be at Dundee on Wed. on your way to Greenock, I take ~~upon~~ up the pen to express My good wishes for a safe, & easy passage & that you may be preserved for valuable purposes. I heartily sympathize with Mrs. N, if her veins are not clear, she must suffer deeply. I beg you may write to me sometimes, & do not conceal the truth if matters do not offer your expectation. I still think you have been hurried off this stage

[Page Break]

which I do most sincerely regrete. My Worthy friend Dr. Rush & I would be antipodes in your affairs. I beg however that you will assure him of my constant love, & regard, for the friend by duty He performed to the Last remains of, Him, who I Loved as my own life. I have half wrote several letters to him, & write him many in my thoughts, but never could get one accomplished that pleased me. My Lord has wrote to the Dr., three, or four times, both before, & since hostilitys Coucid [?], I hope he got some of those, I would not for any thing have him suspect any deliniation [?] of the gratefull source which all this family will ever retain, & the regard due to one who showed himself to be such a friend, in a far country. It gives us great pleasure to Learn from time to time, that he is so happy in his domestic concerns. I have defined my daughter to put into your keeping a small box directed for Dr. Rush, which you will be so good as to take care of, & deliver to him.

I write in a hurry having no time to lose. I should wish you, & family well, in all places, & at all times, being with much esteem, & regrete,

Your H. St.

W.L.

Dr Sir

I am much indebted to you for writing to me so soon after yr arrival, & acquainting me of your safe landing on the American Shore — you give me a very distinct account of your Voyage — your Sons dangerous illness would divert your fears for one week — tho' I dare say you had many awful alarms, & your poor Wife would be in great distress — I don't know how it has been with you as to the Article of heat, but we have seen no such warm Summer for 20 or 30 years — a great deal of Thunder & Lightning on Tuesday the 26 which had been universal, at least we have heard of its Effects E: W: South & North

I rejoice that you found the worthy Doctor in comfortable Circumstances I shall never be indifferent concerning him, He gained My good opinion in his early Days — & has done much to confirm it, I never think of him but with affection, My not writing to him is not a mark of my want of Esteem; but that the Subject which first presents itself to My mind, when I attempt to write to him (which I have done often) is too tender — He has a feeling heart! — I wish you had told me if the Cox diverged
for

him which followed you to Glasgow with Mr Lake; was arrived safe.
When you write let me know about his family, & also about your
fellow voyager Mr Thompson, - If he has got any thing in a settled
way - I poor Peterkin has waited some time for a ship - & in the
mean Mr Gibson W: Kirk is dead who was Chaplain of Stirling Castle,
& Mr P - has applied for that small living, if he succeeds it will prevent
his leaving his poor family - who will be in a very poor way if he is
obliged to leave them - - - Your Glasgow Correspondents will write you abt
a Jew that has been preaching there, & in Ed.ⁿ - I would gladly hope it
is the beginning of a more plentiful Harvest. He has published a short
account of his Conversion - which Mr Peterkin will carry if he goes, I
intend to send this letter by him which makes me write in a hurry as his
motions are uncertain - it will soon be known if there is hopes of his suc-
cess - - - I have the pleasure to inform you that L^d Balgonie has
got a Son - His Mother making a fine Nurse, & that we expect them
(God willing) in about a fortnight - This is a very comfortable event - I
hope you will not forget your friends in your prayers now that you are
in a

Far Country - No distance of place can remove us from Him who
is the Confidence of all the ends of the Earth, & is not far from
any one of us - O that I felt this truth in such a manner as to have
the Influence upon all My thoughts words & actions -

I have little now to write for Instruction, or amusement, which takes up the at-
tention, & is the foundation of much Speculation at present is (calculated for some
of these ends - viz that Mr Murray of Bray Men at the age of (above) 60
years - has gone of w. a Lady between 30 & 40 - & left her worthy Lady
to Mourn for his absence, & his Sins - She is a very pious good woman
at present will find use for the Exercise of all Christian Virtues - She may
have the prayers of many good people in her singular trying Situation, he
has £10,000 a year - & left a letter for the Min^r of the Parish, to bid him take
care & Comfort Lady Katherine - for Church News I leave it all to yr
Parish to Communicate, & for State News I don't Interfere with it, shall
be glad to find that the Presb^{ry} with you stand their ground - I suppose
after you are settled you will find time to write to old friends, & will some-
times find private hands coming in case you have any pamphlet, or
Parcel - I think much of your writing to me so soon - My Love to Mrs

all his family in best respects to you — If Peterkin go out, I hope
you will show him some favour, — I'm persuaded that he is a very
serious good man — This is all I can give you at present — We are all

Aug. 85
Mrs. Leven

The Revd
Chas. Wesley



much as you left us, which is a singular Mercy — My best respects to Mrs
— she has not yet forgot Montrose — Believe me with much
Esteem your H: Serv: W.L.

Aug. 8th 85

Since writing I have got some hopes that Person Mr Peterkin will be
provided — If he is it will be very remarkable

[Scotland, Aug. 8, 1785]

Dr. Sir

I am much indebted to you for writing to me so soon after yr arrival, & acquainting me of your safe Landing on the American shore. you give me a very distinct account of your voyage, your sons dangerous illness would divert your fear for one week, tho' I dare say you had many awfull alarms, & your poor Wife would be in great distress. I don't know how it has been with you as to the article of heat, but we have seen no such warm summer for 20 or 30 years. a great deal of thunder & Lightning on Tuesday the 26 which had been universal, at least we have heard of its effects E. W. South & North

I rejoice that you found the worthy Doctor in Comfortable Circumstance I shall never be Indifferent concerning him, He gained My good opinion in his early days, & has done much to confirm it, I never think of him but with affection, My not writing to him is not a mark of my want of Esteem; but that the Subject which still presents itself to my mind, when I attempt to write to him, (which I have done often,) is too tender. He has a feeling heart! I wish you had told me if the box directed for

[Page Break]

him which followed you to Glasgow with Mr. Lake; was arrived safe.

When you write let Me know about his family, & also about your fellow voyager Mr. Ransom; If he has got any thing in a settled way? poor Peterkin has waited sometime for a ship, & in the mourn Mr Gibson W. Kirk is dead who was Chaplain of Sterling Castle, & Mr. P. has applied for that small living, if he succeeds it will prevent his leaving his poor family, who will be in a very poor way if he is obliged to leave them. Your Glasgow correspondents will write you abt. a Jew that has been preaching there, & in Edn. I would gladly hope it is the beginning of a more plentiful Harvest He has published a short account of his conversion, which Mr. Peterkin will carry if he goes, I intend to send this letter by him which makes me write in a hurry as his motions are uncertain. it will soon be known if there is hopes of his success... I have the pleasure to inform you that Ld. Bolgonie has got a Son. The Mother making a fine Nurse, & that we expect them (God willing) in about a fortnight. This is a very comfortable event. I hope you will not forget your friends in your prayers now that you are in a

[Page Break]

far country. No distance of place can remove us from Him who is the Confidence of all the Ends of the Earth, & is not far from any one of us. O that I felt this truth in such a manner as to have due Influence upon all My thoughts words & actions.

I know little now to write for Distraction, or amusement, what takes up the attention, & is the foundation of much speculation at present is comfortable for none of these ends; Viz that your memory of [*two words illegible*] at the age of (above) 60 year- has gone of wt a Lady between 30 & 40, & left his worthy Lady to mourn for his absence, & his sins. She is a very

pious good w[*page torn*] at present will find use for the Encrease all Christian Virtues. She will have the prayers of many good people in her singular trying Situation, he has £10,000 a year, & left a letter for the Minr. of the Parish, to bid him take care & comfort Lady Katherine. for Church News I have it all to yr Brethren to Communicate, & for State news I don't Interfere with it; Shall be glad to find that the Presbtn. with you stand thus governed. I suppose after you are settled you will find time to write to old friends; & will sometimes find private hands coming in case you have any pamphlet, or parcel. I think much of your writing to me soon. My Lord joins

[Page Break]

all his family in best respects to you. If Peterkin go out, I hope you will show him some favor; I'm persuaded that he is a very serious good man. This is all I can give you at present. We are all much as you left us, which is a singular mercy. My best respects to Mrs. N. She has not yet forgot Montrose. Believe me with much Esteem

your H. Sevt.

W.L.

Augt. 8th 85

Since writing I have got some hopes that poor Mr. Peterkin will be provided. If he is it will be very remarkable

M. H. West. 25th 186.

Dr. Sir

Just when I was meditating a letter to you
yours of June 24th came to hand, had I been in good health would
not have been so long of acknowledging your letter without a date w^{ch}
I received about 3 or 4 weeks ago - It filled me with much surprise
considering its immediate predecessor, & that we had long looked for you
& daily expected your arrival on the Scotch Coast - I had heard Sumner
but none of them appeared such as could be depended upon - till I had it from
your own hand - Most respectfully your friends were expecting you as the people
at Montrose kept the Ch: Vacant till your not coming was almost certain,
but perhaps you did not know of this - Your friends that wished you to stay
perhaps wd not mention it, & it was not generally known - I trust that you
have been directed to what was best & most for promoting that Interest which
you wish to succeed - Sorry to find your health has again been affected in the
hot weather, & that your family are suffering by it - - - Shall be glad to learn
that you are all better - & other particulars concerning them - much obliged to
you for writing me so particularly concerning the state of religion -

I fear you are prejudiced & therefore do not do all the justice to the
Methodists that many deserve who go under that designation, — you know
they were always in two parties — Mr White's, Orthodox in every point,
& although ^{some of} Mr Westley's are not so; yet I am persuaded they have done
a great deal of good, in reforming the Lives, & manners of those, and
that Mr Westley has been counteracted in his indefatigable Labours by
his Divine Master — To him, according to his Vow, he has been a faith-
full Servant for 40 years & he is now near 80 — Still active & vigorous
& anxiously concerned I truly believe, to do the will of his heavenly
Father, — Should be glad to learn something more particular concerning the
Shakers being entirely ignorant about them — I will be much obliged to you
for writing frequently — I'm sure you will hear much good of Mr White's
& still find some of his Disciples making a good figure — it is always a
pleasure to me to hear any thing to his praise — You'll have heard perhaps
before this reaches you, of the great loss that the Church & people of God
have made by the Death of the precious Lady Glenorchy — I doubt we
shall never see her like again — but the Subject is too copious — I must
only give you the text, which you can enlarge upon better than I —
She

has left only the Seventh of an unsigned Will, in which she intended
to leave £5000 to the Society for propagating Christian knowledge in
Scotl^d & as much for pious uses in Eng^d - it is not yet ascertained
whether or not Lady Sutherland & her Husband, will fulfill her Intentions
but I should suppose it not to be doubtful - there is a good deal more
for pious uses - - As I suppose you get Scotch N: papers to Philadelp^a; I
need not write Occurrences, many strange things daily fall out - we hear of
much evil & little good, May a happy reverse soon take place - Shall we
ever see the unhappy division between Am: & her Mother made up again?
That breach which was, & in the course of so many Years, Repaired? I am
persuaded that both parties wd be happier & more affect^d than ever,
Alas! pride that busy Son, stands in the breach ever industrious to widen
it - - O that Men were wiser! - Let me know if it is true that Dr. With-
erspoon has given^{up} the Presidentship & am I am glad to find that Mr. Sherman
is alive & well, we heard that he was dead - As I have an opportunity of
sending this free & safe - I hasten to conclude - I hope our worthy friend
Dr. Knapp: & family continue well & happy - I had a kind letter from
him lately which gave me very great pleasure - And I been well I wd
have wrote

an hour before now - I have sometimes been on the point of doing it but
prevented - My best respects & wishes ever attend him & all his concerns
All this family desire to be kindly remembered ^{to} you & the worthy Doctor
I ever am with Esteem &c D. Sir, your H^o Serv^t W. L.

John
Shoens

Lady Leven
Aug^r 1786.

Dr Chas Nesbitt
To the Care of Dr Rush
Physician
Philadelphia



Let me know how Mr Mevroc is doing

M.A. Augt. 25 '86.

Dr. Sir

Just when I was meditating a letter to you, yours of June 24th came to hand, had I been in good health would not have been so long of acknowledging your letter without a date wch. I received about 3 or 4 weeks ago. It filled me with much surprise considering its immediate predecessor, & that we had long looked for you & daily Expected your arrival on the Scotch Coast. I had heard surmises but none often appeared such as could be depended upon, till I had it from your own hand. Most wishfully your friends were expecting you as the people as Montrose kept the Ch. Vacant till your not coming was almost certain, but perhaps you did not know of this. Your friends that wished you to stay perhaps wd. not mention it, & it was not generally known. I trust that you have been directed to what was best, & most for promoting that Interest which you wish to succeed. Sorry to find your health has again been affected in the hot weather, & that your family are suffering by it...shall be glad to learn that you are all better, & other particulars concerning them. much obliged to you for writing me so particularly concerning the state of religion.

[Page Break]

I fear you are prejudiced & therefore do not do all the justice to the Methodists that many observe who go under that designation; you know they were always in two parties- Mr. Whitfd., Orthodox in Every point, & Although some of Mr. Westley's are not so; yet I am persuaded they have done a great deal of good, in reforming the Lives, & manners of thousd, and that Mr. Westley has been countenanced in his indefatigable Labours by his divine Marter. To him, According to his Vision, he has been a faithful Servant for 70 years he is now near 90, Still active & vigorous & anxiously concerned I truly believe, to do the will of his heavenly father; should be glad to learn something more particular concerning the Shakers being entirely ignorant about them. I will be much obliged to you for writing frequently. I'm sure you will hear much good of Mr. Whitfd. & still find some of his Disciples making a good figure, it is always a pleasure for me to hear any thing to his praise. Youll have heard perhaps before this reaches you, of the great loss that the Church & people of God have made by the death of the precious Lady Glenerey. I doubt we shall never see her like again. but the subject is too Copious. I must only give you the text, which you can enlarge upon better than I. She

[Page Break]

has left only the formal of an unsigned Will, in which she intended to leave £5,000 to the society for propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotld, & as much for pious uses in Engld; it is not yet ascertained whether or not Lady Sutherld & her husband will fulfill her intentions but I should suppose it not to be doubted. there is a good deal more for pious uses. As I suppose you get Scotch N. Papers to Philadelphia, I need not write occurrences, many strange things daily fall out. We hear of much evil, & little good, may a happy reverse soon take place. Shall we Ever See the unhappy devision between Am. & her mother made up again? That breach which was, & is, the Cause of So Many Evils, Repaired? I am persuaded that both parties would be happier & more affectt. than ever. Alas! pride that defy Him, stands in the breach ever industrious to

widen it. O! that Men were wise! Let me know if it is time that Dr. Witherspoon has given up the Presidentship &c &c I'm glad to find that Mr. Thomn is alive & well, we heard that he was dead. As I have an opportunity of sending this free & safe, I hasten to conclude. I hope our worthy friend Dr. Rush & family continue well & happy. I had a kind letter from him lately which gave me very great pleasure, had I been well I would have wrote

[Page Break]

an answer before now, & have sometimes been on the point of doing it but prevented. My best respects and wishes ever attend him & all his concerns. All this family desire to be kindly remembered to you & the Worthy Doctor I am ever with Esteem Dr. Sir,

your H. Servt.

W.L.

Let Me know how Mr. Munroe is doing.

D^r Sir

Tho' I am distressed with Sore Eyes I have taken
a large Sheet of paper in case I find wherewithal to cover it, - It is
with regret that I reflect here long it is since I had yours of Dec^r.
25th - Not answering it immediately is the reason of the Delay - for a
variety of ~~business~~ ^{business} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~coming~~ ^{coming} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~mind~~ ^{mind} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~cause~~ ^{cause} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~delay~~ ^{delay} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~answering~~ ^{answering} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~long~~ ^{long} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~able~~ ^{able} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~excuse~~ ^{excuse} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~assured~~ ^{assured} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~I~~ ^I ~~am~~ ^{am} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~sorry~~ ^{sorry} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~news~~ ^{news} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~write~~ ^{write} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~quarter~~ ^{quarter} ~~either~~ ^{either} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~regard~~ ^{regard} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~situation~~ ^{situation} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~state~~ ^{state} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Religion~~ ^{Religion} ~~among~~ ^{among} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~shall~~ ^{shall} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~glad~~ ^{glad} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~hear~~ ^{hear} ~~what~~ ^{what} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~great~~ ^{great} ~~Reputation~~ ^{Reputation} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~secured~~ ^{secured} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~Constitution~~ ^{Constitution} ~~lately~~ ^{lately} ~~adopted~~ ^{adopted} . When I mentioned
a possibility of a young Man being fitted (I Surely intended to say) to
combat, not comply, with the prejudices of the people, - for in many
respects indeed, this might be much ag^t. a Mans Character, in all
things a steady person in the faith, as sinfull compliance are
always attended with bad consequences, Tho' in other matters it is often
necessary, & winning, to use gentle means, - I am very sorry that D^r. R.
& you are upon bad terms, - I should think it very disagreeable, & a loss to
both, - It is matter of deep regret to be informed of such a woeful
change to the worse, as America in general has undergone of late;
I once looked upon ^{it} as the most highly favoured corner of the Earth,
in many respects, but chiefly with regard to religion. - When the Lord

Whitfield to be a leading man among them in many places, religion
flourished, & increased, - He had no bye Views, or Ends, - the glory of God,
& the good of Souls were the spring of all his motions. The war
did much hurt, turned the people Idle, & forgotful of God, & every
thing but Liberty - ^{of a kind so called} & I doubt it has been a fatal Liberty - very
different from that of the Child^{ren} of Light - - - Poor Mr Thompson

remained in a very poor situation, It is several months since he
came to Scotland, he is now in Dundee, - He describes his situation to
have been most affecting - ^{some of} the people rendered unable to pay his ^{debt} & ^{steps}
from Poverty, others from want of will - The money he carried out, having
lost his amity, he bought Land with it, of which he could make nothing,
& was obliged to slip away even without the poor wife - who stood as a
hostage - ^{I fear} I hope the people of Dundee mean to serve him in some
shape or other, he has had a sore time of it, - There is nothing to
write from this Country but what you will get in the papers, & Maga-
zines - a great deal about the Sunday Schools, - & reformation of
Manners which by the blessing of God! I hope will have a good
effect - The former has already had wonderfull effects in de-
stroying Taverns Especially, both in Scotland & England, - your friends about
Glasgow don't could tell you much about this - I thought Dr Gilman & you
had corresponded; Surely Dr Witherspoon & ~~He~~ ^{He} correspond, - He
is always very busy about something, & will be to the last if his faculties
remain - I beg to be remembered to Dr W when you see him

I regretted not seeing him when in Scot^d — I am surpris'd that you
say nothing of your own family — I hope your son has got free
of all impedim^t in his sight & doing as you would wish him — I find by a
letter from Mr Muir that was at Bermuda that he is gone to New York, of this
Dr M: wd inform you as the writer a short preface to a few Sermons he has pub-
lished — The price of which by the time it reached me a single Vol: cost 19th & 2^d
he had thought less by sent it by post — whereas in a ship it wd only be a trifle, if
any thing — He is a pious good man I am ~~glad to hear of~~ ~~glad to hear of~~ ~~glad to hear of~~
where he now is — He married too young which is no long matter — he does not
mention if he has any child: — I should be glad to know how he is received or
if in any settled way — I'm glad he is under the tuition of Dr Rogers to
whom he desires me to direct for him — I should be glad to know how
you & family keep your health — have you laid aside all thoughts
of returning to your native Land — I sincerely wish you a
happy — You have prohibited a bad Don of the Methodists since you went
abroad — There are good, & bad in all sects, & parties, — yet strange, that one who
ever knew that highly favoured Saint, Mr G: W: — should harbour a doubt
that the Lord was with him of a truth — & countenance his labours more
than ^{other} any Man since the apostles days, & at this moment I dare to say
that the best people in America, are plants of the precious Seed sown
in his time, — It hurts me to find you speak lightly of the Methodists
in your time, — The good that some of them have been enabled to do, is most
amazing! — It is no wonder that Satan lay snares ag^t them — but My paper
is near a close & also my eyes — I dare not send any pamphlet they are
so dear — I will try to get this letter sent a pennyworth — I fear at best you
will think it a poor one — If I know of any persons or families, you wish to be
of I wd mention them — Mr Martins all well — as are all this family
present & absent so far as I know — remember us in your prayers — good
reason have we to say — that the Lord is good & gracious — My Dear
Sond:

his best respects give mine to Mrs Nisbet - How would she
like to come back to Montrose - with much Esteem I am
Sir your H: Servt W. L.

Aug^r 1st 1788

D^r Nisbet

Carlyle College

Raay
Aug^r 1 1788

[Scotland, Aug. 1, 1788]

Dr. Sir

Tho' I am distressed with Sore Eyes I have taken a large sheet of paper in case I find wherewithal to cover it. It is with regret that I reflect how long it is since I had yours of Decr. 25th. Not answering it Immediately is the reason of the Delay, for a variety of business makes me neglect many necessary duties which fly out of my mind. I'm sorry that you have no better news to write from your quarter either with regard to your own situation, or the state of religion among you, shall be glad to hear what your great Expectations have received from the new Constitution lately adopted. When I mentioned a possibility of a young man being fitter – (I Surely Intended to say) to combat, not comply, with the prejudices of the people; for in many respects indeed, this might be much agst. a mans character, in all earnestness a steady person is the fittest, as Sinfull compliances are always attended with bad conveyances, Tho' in other matter it is often necessary, & winning to use gentle means. I am very sorry that Dr. R. & you are upon bad terms; I should think it very disagreeable, & a Loss to both. It is matter of deep regret to be informed of such a woefull change to the worse, as America in general has undergone of Late; I once looked upon it as the most highly favoured comer of the Earth in many respects, but chiefly with regard to religion. When the Lord renewed Mr.

[Page Break]

Whitfd. to be a Leading man among them in many places, religion flourished, & increased; He had no bye, an Ends; the Glory of God, & the good of Sorts were the Spring of all his movemt. The war never did much hurt, turned the people Idle, & forgetfull of God, & everything but Liberty, formerly so called, & I doubt it has been Liberty. very Different from that of the Childn of Light... Poor Mr. Thomsom arrived in a very poor situation, It is several months since he came to retain, he is now in Dundee; He describes his situation to have been most affecting some of the people rendered unable to pay his stipend from Poverty, often from want of will. The money he carried out, having sold his animals, he bought Land with it, of which he could make nothing, & was obliged to step away even without the poor wife- who staid as a hostage I fear. I hope the people of Dundee mean to serve him in some shape or other, he has had a sore time of it. There is nothing to write from this country but what you will get in the N. Papers, & magazines. a great deal about the Sunday Schools; & reformations of Mormon which by the blessing of God! I hope will have a good Effect. The former has already had wonderfull Effects in large trading Times, Especially, both in Scotld & England; Your friends about Glasgow could tell you much about this. I thought Dr. Gillan & you corresponded; Surely Dr. Witherspoon & He correspond; He is always very busy about something, & will be to the last if his faculty remains. I beg to be remembered to Dr. W. when you see him

[Page Break]

I regretted not seeing him when in Scotld. Im surprised that you say nothing of your own family. I hope your son has got free of all impediments in his sights & doing as you would wish him. I find by a letter from Mr. Mair that was at Bermuda that he is gone to New York, of this Dr. N., and inform you as he writes a short preface to a few sermons he has published, the price of which

by the time it reached me a single Vol. cost 19sh and 2d he had thought cheaply sent it by post, whereas in a ship it would only be a trifle, if anything. He is a pious good man I am [*3 or 4 words illegible*] where he now is. He married too young which is no easy matter, he does not maintain if he has any Childn. I should be glad to know how he is received or in any settled way. I'm glad he is under the tuition of Dr. Rogers to whom he desires me to direct for him. I should be glad to know how you & family keep your health. have you laid aside all thoughts of returning to you native Land. I surely wish you are happy. You have Imbibed a bad Idea of the Methodists since you went abroad. There are good, & bad in all sects, & parties; yet strange, that one who ever knows that highly favoured Saint, Mr. G. Wd. should harbour a doubt that the Lord was with him of a truth-, & Countenanced his Labours more than any other man since the Apostles days, & at this moment I dare to say that the best people in America, are plants of the precious seed sown in his time. It hurts me to find you speak lightly of the Methodists in gov't. The good that some of them have been Enabled to do is most amazing! It is no wonder that Satan lay snares agt them. but My paper is near a close & also my eyes. I dare not send any pamphlets they are so dear. I will try to get this better sent a pennyworth, I fear at best you will think it a poor one. If I know any persons, or familys, you wished to hear of I wd mention them. Mr Martins all well, as are all this family present & absent so far as I know. remember us in your prayers good reason have we to say, this the Lord! is good & Gracious. My Lord sends

[Page Break]

his best respects give mine to Mrs Nisbet. How would she like to come back to Montrose. With much esteem I am sir

Your H. Sert.

W.L.

Augt 1st 1788