Dr Sir  I received your letter of the 17th of Sept about a week ago — by which I am sorry to find your Situation is not likely to become more agreable, & that you cannot draw a more favourable representation of the State of religion &c in that part of the Wo: where you now are, — I'm affraid the picture you Exhibit is by no means a Caricature, Extended from prejudice, or discontent, as I find others Corroborating the truth of your Evidence, Especially concerning the State of religion, — a young Gentleman from this Sight been lead writes in the very Same Strain — Says the Holy Sabbath is not regarded, & the Churches in Philadelp.a very ill attended, not above 40 Communts in the Church he attended, — & I always wish that you had Come out from among them, — for in place of being of more use there, than at home, — As Matters now Stand I fear you are of much less — I have never had but one Vew of that Matter altogether, as you well know, for I always told you my Sentim.ts tho' w.t much diffidence, & sorry that you did not take your departure as you had once firmly resolved to do, — I always think you will End your days upon this Side of the Atlantic, to be sure much depends upon the State of your family, of which you never say any thing — how your Child.n are employed — your letters are very entertaining, & Instructive, but always make me Sorry upon your own account, & upon acct of the woefull Change to

the verse upon that once highly favoured part of the world
– I forget who says? Pelegrom Stands on tip toe in our land

"Ready to fly to the American Strand

and Surely I thought it had taken it flight thither, – for once in
day, I thought they were all Saints, – especially by the good Samples
& good reports we hear
I some of them, – but by all accounts She has taken wing ag.st the
alas! I do not find that She has Landed on the British Shore,
or would meet with welcome there. – I look for Something extra
ordinary from our beloved Sovereigns Redeem illness! that it
will not be unto Death but for the Glory of God! it has called
the attention of all ranks – Made a Sort of Solemn pause, &
given many people time to Consider who never think at all, –
The publick amusem.ts all hushed, & Churches Crowded to hear
the many fervent prayers put up to Heaven for the restoration
of his precious health – the Royal family are all quite
dejected, & afflicted, which may be of great use by the blessing of
God! the last time the K. was abroad was at the Chapel where
he did be, in spite of being advised agt it, & the Queen, & princes,
& princesses, have the worship of God in the Queens apartments;
these, & other things too tedious to Mention, appear to be tokens
for good! the Nation never was more united, or more fervent in
their wishes, than they are at present for the preservation, & Es-
tablishment of the K.s health – Scarcely there never was a Sovereign
more Universaly beloved ——— I am at a great loss to find out
how to fill the rest of my paper with Such Intelligence as would
be

all you friends so far as I knew

March 2d I must first say to you as the worthy, & Good Mr Newton ~~Newton~~ said to me in a letter I had from him lately; began about 2 months before it was finished — that he sent the first part to convince me of his intentions — but from various occurrences he had never found it convenient to finish what he had begun, this has been the case with me, & I wd not send such a confused scrawl to such a distance, were it not as a proof I had not forgot you — My fear is that my long silence may make you suspect what can never be true concerning me; that I forget, or can make light of a friend, besides this, you may be afraid [illegible] that the loss my own, as your letters are a great entertainment to me — but I am kept too busy, tho I fear often idly so, I hope this will find you well, there is a great change upon the face of affairs in Britain since this letter was begun, by the recovery of our beloved Sovereign — the joy is beyond imagination from the lowest to the highest — I must refer you to publick intelligence for all that happened during the sad interval, — there appears to be a great work upon the wheel at present, & I wish I had a chat with you, to hear your lively observations, & animadversions about many things; — let me know how you are as to health, & contentment, & if you appear to be settled for life — or intend to end your days in Britain — I am sorry to find that poor Mr Muir has got no settlement perhaps by this time it may be otherwise — he is a good man, what are his foibles I cannot say — when you write — pray let me know the history of your own family, — this family by the blessing of God, & his infinite mercy, — are all alive — & much increased — Ld Bal. has 3 sons — Mary has 5 living children — y alive, & the does not look to be above 20 — remember us in your prayers, we have much to be thankfull for — I thought you [illegible] intended with worthy

Lady Leven
March 2. 1789

The Revd
Chas. Nisbet President
of the College at Carlisle
By Philadelphia
Recd 8th July 1789.

Old Dr. Gillies — He is alive & well — I stem a letter from you very much — Mr Martin & family all well — he now wins the H.d of one wife in spite of your apprehensions

I sealed this letter in a hurry & forgot that I had had brought it to no conclusion — or sent My Lords best respects to you in which My Daughters join — & to offer mine to Mrs Nisbet, & to assure you that I continue to be with real Esteem &c — yours H.S.
W.L.

[Mar. 2, 1789]

Dr Sir

I received your letter of the 14th of Sept. about a week ago, by which I am sorry to find your situation is not likely to become more agreeable, & that you cannot draw a more favourable representation of the State of religion in that part of the Wo: where you now are. I'm afraid the picture you Exhibit is by no means a commentary extended from prejudice, or discontent, as I find others corroborating the truth of your Evidence, Especially concerning the state of religion; A young Gentleman from this Neighbourhood writes in the very same strain. Says the Holy Sabbath is not regarded, & the churches in Philadelphia very ill attended, not above 40 [*one word illegible*] in the church he attended; I always wish that you had come out from among them, for in place of being more use there, then at home; As matters now stand I fear you are of much use. I have never had but one view of that matter altogether, as you well know, for I always told you my sentiments tho' wh [*with*] much diffidence, & sorry that you did not take your departure as you had once firmly resolved to do. I always think you will end your days upon this side of the Atlantic, to be sure much depends upon the State of your family, of which you never say any thing, how your Childn [*children*] are employed. your letters are very entertaining, & Instructive, but always make me Sorry upon your own account, & upon acct. of the woefull change to

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the worse upon that once highly favoured part of the world. I forget who says
"Religion stands on tip toe in our Land
Ready to fly to the American Stand.
And surely I thought it had taken flight thither, for once in day, I thought they were all saints; especially by the good samples I saw of them & good reports are heard, but by all accounts she has taken wing agn [*again*]. Tho' alas! I do not find that she has landed on the Brittish Shore, or would meet with welcome there. I look for something extraordinary from our beloved sovereigns Edwin illness! that it will not be unto death but for the Glory of God! it has called the attention of all ranks, made a sort of solemn promise, & given many people time to consider who never think at all. The publick amusement to all hastened, & Churches Crowded to hear the many fervent prayers put up to heaven for the restoration of his precious health. The Royal family are all quite dejected, & afflicted, which may be of great use by the blessing of God! The last time the K was abroad was at the chapel where he would be, in spite of being advised agt. [*against*] it, & the Queen, & princes, & princesses, have the worship of God in the Queen's apartment. Those, & other things to insidious to mention, appear to be tokens for good! The nation never was more united, or more fervent in their wishes, then they are at present for the preservation, & Establishment of the K's health. Surely there never was a sovereign more universally beloved. I am at a great loss to find out how to fill the rest of my paper with such intelligence as would be

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all you found so far as I know

March 2d I must just say to you as the worthy, & Revd. Mr. Newton said to me in a letter I had from him lately; began about 2 month before it was finished. That he sent the first part to Convince me of his Intentions. but from Various Occurrences, he had never found it convenient to finish what he had begun, this has been the case with me, & I wd. not send such a confused scrawl to such a distance, was it not as a proof I had not forgot you. My fear is that my long silence may make you suspect what can never be truth concerning me; that I forget, or can make light of a friend; beside that you may be assured [*one or two words illegible-tear in page*] the loss my own, as your letters are a great entertainment to me. but I am kept too long, tho' I fear often idly so, I hope this will find you well, there is a great change upon the face of affairs in Christian since this letter was begun, by the recovery of our beloved sovereign. tho' joy is beyond imagination from the lowest to the highest. I must refer you to publick intelligence for all that happened during the sad interval; there appears to be a great work upon the wheel at present, I wish I had a Crack with you, to hear your Lively Observations, & animadversion about many thing; Let me know how you are as to health, & contentment, & if you appear to be settled for life, or intend to end your days in Britain. I'm sorry to find that poor Mr. Muir has got no settlmt. perhaps by this time it may be otherwise. He is a good man, what are his foibles I cannot say. When you write, pray let me know the history of your own family; this family by the blessing of God, & his infinite mercy; are all alive, & much encreased. Ld. Bal. has 3 Sons, Mary has had 9 childn. 7 alive, & she does not look to be above 20. remember us in your prayers, we have much to be thankfull for. I thought you [*two words illegible- tear in page*] with worthy

[Page Break]

Old Dr. Gillan. He is alive and well [*two words illegible- covered by seal*] Esteem a letter from you very much. Mr. Martin & family all well. he remains the Hd. of one wife in spite of your apprehensions.

I sealed this letter in a hurry & forgot that I had not brought it to no Conclusion, or sent my Lord's best respects to you in which My Daughters Join, & to offer mine to Mrs. Nisbet, & to assure you that I continue to be with real esteem & your H.S.

W.L.

Dr Sir

It is lonely presumption in me to begin upon a full Sheet, good example is much worth, but we are often Imitators in the things that we are least qualified to Copy after — Your great Letter of the 9th of Augt came to hand Septr 12 & was a fund of Entertainmt, & instruction, in Many things that we knew not, & to get these testimonies from a far Country, upon the word of Varacity, is rare News, plenty of News poms in upon us; but Little truth, — What K. David Said in his haste, an honest man said, he might now Say at his Leizure &c — Your letters always give Me pleasure, but I Still find a Cloud hanging over them, & My regrate for your absence from your own Country gains ground, upon every Insinuation of your own for having Left it — The decaying State of religion, & its fatal Consequences, must affect yours, & every righteous Spirit, — The famine of these, fit to be made freends — & of hearers in your Church, must Cast a damp even upon your good Spirit, It is a great Mercy that you, & your family, have Enjoyed good health, & you have all reason to hope that your Indefatigable Labours will be blest, but you cannot Expect to be long able to undergoe Such an Excertion of Strength, of body, & Mind, as your present Labour requires — you do not Mention what assistance you have, — or if the people employed are diligent, & usefull among the Students, &c — If you had not Such Comforts as the world cannot give, your Situation would be most uncomfortable, as it is So little Suited to your Natural Genius, But you have the Comfort of knowing that whatever State you are in, 'Tis by the divine providence, that God has the ordering of it, all the Ingredients in your Cup, & all the variety of your State, are from Him, you Consider that there is no State of present things, how favourable Soever, without an Alloy — that there is Something in every Condition of life, & in every place, to Convince us of the fruitless Effort of Seeking rest here below; While we Complain of grievances in this or that Situation, we might find worse in another, — In every State there is Something amiss but

blessed be God! There no is not State that can exclude these Comforts, & Consolations which Cannot be taken away ---- Peace Grows every where from him who is our Peace, - He is the Comforter of all the ends of the Earth! &c ---

I cannot think of any thing to write for your amusement, there is nothing on this side of the atlantic, in which you are interested, but what you know as much of, as you would wish to be informed of, - Nothing Seems to be improving so fast as the art of windling, & deceiving the unwary - there are Many Masters of Art in this Profession - So that one Cannot help admiring the Ingenuity; while they grieve that it has not been employed to better purposes ---- the State of the French nation & many places in Germany you will be informed of, they are in a most deplorable Situation, & I believe the wisest Politicians can form no Idea of what will be the Issue - Mr Martin has wrote you all the News he could Collect which I am glad of - As I find my Letters Can be little Else than tokens of Remembrance & of good wishes for you, and family - Hope your Son will do well, & disapoint all your fears - Our Youngest, George is now Settled in business at Ostend, & is much Satisfied with his Situation - has your Son got his Sight perfectly in the Eye that was affected, My Mind is at present in much anxiety & Concern about Mr. Dr. and Only Sister, L: Banff, She has been in declining way, from various Causes, for these 12 Months past, has been better, & worse, but little appearance of returning health - ~~the~~ sweet family will make a great Loss, if it should please God! to take her to himself, - I Still unmarried, & Mr Murray daughter who you will remember, has not had a days health these 3 years, Since she had her 3d Child - but I hope is getting better - I write all this as if it was to obtain your pious prayers - but alas! what Changes may have taken place before it make its way to you, - Mr M. will have mentioned the weather - Earthquakes about Crefs &c - No body remembers such a wet

My Lord

I intend to send with this a few Magazines about the Assembly time, & some Scotch papers — hope they may amuse you, — Tho I have nothing that at present occurs, to amuse you, I beg you may continue your Interesting & amusing history, to me, — we have little from Am: that can be depended upon — Mr Martin would write you about Dr McGill — No body can say how that Matter will end, it had much Need to amend — I hope you will hear from Dr Gillies what the Professors of Glasgow have done, & mean to do — If you commission any books for your Library, I wish you would get two Vols entitled "Horæ Solitariæ or Essays both Doctrinal, & Practical — upon the divinity of Xt, & the H: Spirit, & also upon the Subject of the Trinity Shewing it to have been a truth received from the Earliest ages; & Confirmed by the principles of the Gospel in 2 Vols 12 Sk — the authors name not affixed, but well known to be — by Serle Serle Esqr, — who was Secretary to a great Man when in office, — He is also author of the X'tian Remembrancer — which I will send with the Magazines — his works are very much Esteemed by good people, & I dare say you will admire that book very much as it is looked upon as a masterly performance, I mean the Horæ Solitariæ

I must now conclude this very trifling Epistle which I am ashamed to think is to travel so far to little purpose; & can only serve as a mark of that Esteem which I have Entertained for you since Ever Nostre-Adamus introduced us to each other Acquaintance, or Rather those Enemies of yours that raised such Ridiculous Stories abt a Sermon of yours which I resolved to be at the bottom of by Enquiring at the first hand — With best Respects to you from all here — & Mine to Mrs Nisbet &c — My Lord is much entertained with your letters & desires to be particularly remembered — Many thanks for the Pastoral Letter it is an Exceeding good one

Believe me with much Esteem & friendship yours H: St. W L.

How does Rush & all his family do, It is long Since I had the pleasure of hearing of them — but Sincerely wish them well —

Mebitt Nov.r 27th 89

The Rev.d
Dr. Nisbet
Carlisle College

Lady Fenn
27th Nov. 89

I would be much Indebted to you for any Scraps of Lectures — or Explanations of any Chap.s or Verses that you judged most useful — I am very partial to your talents this way — & really fear you Should publish a Vol.:

[Nov. 27, 1789]

Dr Sir

It is truely presumption in me to begin upon a full sheet, good example is much worth, but we are often Imitators in the things that we are least qualified to copy after. Your great letter of the 9th of Augt. Came to hand Septr. 12 & was a find of entertainment, & instruction, in many things that we know not, & to get these testimonies from a far country, upon the word of Variety, is rare news, plenty of News pours in upon us, but little truth. What N. David said in his haste, an honest man said he might now say at his leisure. Your letters always give me pleasure, but I still find a Cloud hanging over them, & My regrate for your absence from your own country gains ground, upon every Insinuation of your own for having left it. The decaying State of religion, & its fatal Consequences, must affect yours, & every righteous spirit. The famine of these, fit to be made friends, & of hearers in your Church, must cast a damp over upon your good spirit, It is a great Mercy that you, & your family, have Enjoyed good health, & you have all reason to hope that your indefatigable Labours will be blest, but you cannot Expect to be long able to undergoe Such an Exertion of strength, of body, & Mind, as your present Labour requires. You do not mention what assistance you have; or if the people employed are diligent, & usefull among the Students. If you had not such Comforts as the world cannot give, your situation would be most uncomfortable, as it is so little suited to your Natural Genius, But you have the comfort of knowing that whatever state you are in, 'Tis by the divine providence, that God has the ordering of it, all the Ingredients in your Cup, & all the variety of your State, are from Him, you Consider that there is no State of present things, how favourable Soever, without an Alley. that there is something in Every Condition of Life, & in every place, to Convince us of the fruitless Effort of Seeking rest here below; while we complain of grievances in this or that Situation, we might find worse in another. In every State there is something amiss but

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better, & worse, but little appearance of returning health. Her sweet family will make a great Loss, if it should please God! to take her to himself; 3 Daughters still unmarried, & Mr. Murray who you will remember, has not had a days health these 3 years, since she had her 3d Child, but I hope is getting better. I write all this as if it was to obtain your pious prayers, but alas! what changes may have taken place before it makes its way to you. Mr. M will have mentioned the weather. Earthquakes about Crees. Nobody remembers such a wet .

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My lord intend to send with this a few magazines about the Assembly time, & some Scotch N. Papers. hope they may amuse you; Tho I have nothing that at present occurs, to comft. You, I beg you may Continue your interesting & engaging history, to me, who hears little from Am. that can be depended upon. Mr. Martin would write you about Dr. McGill. No body can say how that matter will end, it had much need to amend. I hope you will hear from Dr. Gethers what the Presby. of Glasgow have done, & mean to do. If you commisn. any books for you library, I wish you would get two vols. entitled "Haven Solataire or Essays both Doctrinal, & Practical" upon the divinity of Xn, & the H. Spirit, & who upon the subject of the Trinity showing it to have been a truth received from the earliest ages, & confirmed by the principles of the gospel in 2 Vols. 12 sh. The author name not affixed, but well know to be by Serle Syrle Esq. who was secretary to a great man when in office. His is also another of the Xtian Remembrances, which I will send with manager and his works are very much esteemed by good people, & I daresay you wd. admire <u>that book</u> very much as it is looked upon as a masterly performance. <u>I mean the Haven Solitaire</u>. I must now conclude this very twisting Epistle which I am ashamed to think is to travel so far to little purpose. It can only serve as much of that esteem which I have entertained for you since ever <u>Nature=Adamum</u> Introduced us to each others Acquaintance, <u>or rather</u> these enemies of yours that raised such Ridiculous Stories abt a sermon of yours which I related to be at the bottom of Enquiring at the first hand. Best Respects to you from all here, & mine to Mrs. Nisbet. My Lord is much entertained with your letters and Desires to be particularly remembered. Many thanks for the Pastoral Letter it is an Exceeding good one.

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Believe me with much esteem & friendship your H. St.

W.L.

How does Rush and all his family do. It is long since I had the pleasure of hearing of them. but sincerely wish them well.

[*one word illegible*] Novr. <u>27th 89</u>

I would be much indebted to you for any scraps of Lectures, or explanation of any chaps. or verses that you judged most usefull. I am very partial to your talents this way, & really must possess them. you should publish a Vol.

Dr. Sir - I have just received your Letter & parcel which has roused me as from a dream, & awaked in me sincere regrets for having never ac-knowledged your former long Letter — to convince you that I had intended it I send this Sheet upon which I began an answer, but having let that opportunity slip have never found a more convenient Season — I think myself become unfit for writing Letters — If ever I had any capacity that way it is much impaired — but I cease from apologies & admire your kindness in forgiving this seeming ne-glect indeed there is nothing real in it — you have laid me under a great Ob-ligation by the treasure you have sent me, & for which I return you a great many thanks — I have not yet proved them, but know they need no proof, as they are from the same tree from which I have tasted sweet fruit formerly —

I wonder Mr Martin did not deliver the Commiss.n I gave him to thank you & make my excuse for not writing when he did — He is now happy with getting his Son a Preacher, & a Kirk — It gives me great pleasure to find your health is so good, It sometimes comes a cross me that you will yet land on your Na-tive Shore — & in the Remainder of yr life enjoy the Society of some old friends — among whom I Rank myself — — I am frail & feeble as to health, at the same time wonder that I am so well — It is indeed a singular Mercy to be free from many of those distresses Incident to old age — My Dr. Friend is surprisingly healthy, & all our Child.n & G. Children healthy — I must tell you a Circumstance that is matter of wonder & praise — Our Son John in the guards returned to Britain just when the Army was preparing to attack Valenciennes — which was a very unlooked for Event by his anxious friends — & as comfortable, as unexpected — The cause was that three Companies were to be raised & added to the Regt. & he was appointed to one of them — which gives him the Rank of Col, besides bringing him Home — I leave

It to you to Reflect how this ought to affect tender Parents, yet we ought always to rejoice with trembling - not knowing where our danger or Safety lies, in the Mean time it is relieving — The Situation of our troops before Valencescenes engrosses the attention of all Ranks & denominations at present -- what dreadfull Havock, & barbarities, have been Committed Since I wrote you last,— What the End of these things will be, is only known to him that knoweth all things, — O! that Men would become wiser, & better by the judgem^t of the Lord, Since goodness & Mercy would not bring to repentance

Mr Martin will write you news, I am a very bad retailer, & indeed a small Sketch would fill a Vol, will Send you Some News papers where you will find much true, & much false — The Siege of Valenc.^s engrosses at present the attention & anxiety of the publick — May Mercy prevent dreadfull Consequences — I dare Say people in Philadelphia get News papers from Britain — Scotch N.^s Papers will Suit your taste best — We are all quiet at present — No Sickness or Pains are trembling our Constitution — It is thought that the Many Late receipts for Curing publick disorders have had a good Effect — The rights of Man — published on this Subject have been of More use to Show them their wrongs / by Many just Commentarys / than any Method that could have been discovered — — —

Aug.^t The News of the Surrender of Valen.^s came to our Ears, & is indeed wonderfull in our Eyes / I wish it was more believed to be the doing of Lord but nothing yet has been Said in all the Acc.^ts which ascribes this wonderfull Success to a higher power than Man / that such an event has been brought ab.^t with the loss of so few Men is indeed Marvelous — I will Send you News papers — & Leave all remarks to your Ingenuity which is not only fertile but Witty, & Wise, —

I have been favored with your Notes, which I have now read — & thank you very much for them — They have no fault, but a Small one — If Ever you write any more to me you may Stretch out your hand in pity to My Dim Sight — a gr[illegible] ... or that it is no wo[illegible]

— My Lord read some of them easily by candle light — would you have any objection to publishing some parts of these Notes if Dr Erskine approved, there are some remarks that would be well timed, & might be usefull — the Author might, or might not be concealed — Dr E published a Sermon sometime ago which he was solicited to do, which I will send you, he preached a Sermon at Dr Robs Death, which together with a Lecture — were Esteemed to be Master pieces, bad health prevents his complying with the many earnest solicitations to publish them, It is with much pleasure that I venture to say he is continuing better, & preaches often tho' very poorly — a Wonderfull man! Dr Gillies is in also much recovered, has at last been prevailed upon to take an assistant. Mr Gillies Dyed in Winter, after which Dont Mrs Leslie stood with him near hoff a year she is always anxious to hear abt you — I take it for granted that Mr Martin Instructs you wt regard to ye Publick — I hope in time they will improve — and truth prevail agt Error, as Enquiry has been making concerning it, at Dr E. & Hunter, gone of their pa

Dr It is strange to Reflect that America is now so much in the french Interest — I should only imagine it to be copy of their Countenance & that Bretain will still have a hold of their heart — tho' parent may have been thought harsh, and severe in their measures, yet they are Parents still, & blood is stronger than water, as the Proverb says — perhaps they may get write & take one of our Princes to rule over them What says Mr Sam Adam?? I hope somebody sent you Mr Downing's Prophetical conjectures concerning many things — I have but one Copy — Now that I have entered upon I shall talk — I shall rather tire, than Either Edify or amuse you, — It is however a Consolation to me, to see that I have covered so much Paper, in Cracking with my Worthy Fd in a far Country — which I would much rather do it at Melvill fireside, — it is always a great pleasure to me to hear from you, — Let me know what is doing either publick, or private — how you are now with Respect to temporal concerns, & how Religion advances, or declines — any Encouragemt for good Minrs if we could spare any from our small Stock — indeed it is not the best here, that generally get the gravel

greatest Encourag.: perhaps you May send us a Sample of your divines
as I should Like Them of your Raising if they answer your Wishes, & Care, — Many
ours are of the fashionable Sort & seem to have Learned a New Creed — I do not
know how they Come to Sign the Confes.: of F.: with a Safe Conc.: We do not hear many
of them — but much of them — Their Burthen indeed Seems to be light, & that they have
laid aside every weight, & all besetting Sins — & teach men so to do — but not in the
way that He teaches — Who taught as never Man taught, & as Cannot be Learned by
the precepts of Men — They have never yet Learned of Him, who Said "take my
Yoke upon you" — tho' I fear this Class of Divines old & young are too Numerous
yet there are Many Excellent pious young Men — but I must not waste my paper
Serving to thank you gratefully for another Letter I Just now received, of Date June 14
I take this as a great Mark of kindness, Especially, when I was appearing to you under
the Mask of unkindness, forgetfulness, &c — Tho' a very unfair Copy of My Countenance
towards you, My Worthy old friend, — I desire that whatever Appearances May Occur in this
Sinister light that you May treat them as Not Even Shadows of the truth — which I have
told you at the beginning of this, Sorry you should make any ap.: for yr. excellent Notes
which we highly prize — & wish they, & more of the Same useful tendency was in print;
I'm Sorry for what you write Me Concerning Dr. Rush, it is not Correspondent to his former
professions of friendship — He must Ever have my Regard, & good wishes, as in duty bound,
but Many are the changes which a little time produces in this uncertain State of things,
"Blessed be God! That the foundation Standeth Sure — "this is firm footing — all
is Sand beside" — I cannot pretend to answer your letter but to Say that I approve of
all the Solid Reasoning which it Contains, & to beg the Continuance of So Edifying a Cor-
respondence & of Informing Me Concerning the Situation of your family — beg also to
know how Dr. Witherspoon Stood the operation & if it had any good Effects, which I
Sincerely wish, & would beg of you if you have any Correspond.: w.: him to say that I re-
member him with Esteem & good wishes — Tho' Some of his works I did not Esteem him
for --- My Good friend Sends his best Respects to you — he is much Entertained with
your Correspondence — L.: B.: family are in health & promising Sons — Lady

Ruth has 2 Sons & 5 Dr. all healthy & thriving so far — her Eldest Son has been above a year in Engl. with Mr De Courcy who was in this Country long ago in L: Glen: family & is now settled at Sternsbury, all the young Mans tutors approved of his going there, & we had a Visit of him & Mr De C — this Summer, he is much improved — & much beloved by every body — I write you this as it is matter of great thankfulness — the Girls all very promising at present — Sr. I: & L: Jane well & their only Dr. a tall fine Girl — Have you any Gd. Children & where & how are yr. young people Employed & how Dr. Mrs N. keeps her health & this is all that I can Collect for your Edification — Perhaps you will not find any thing of that Sort — I should have said Information — Whatever it Contains, I intend it as a Specimen of good Will — which you must accept of for the deed — With Esteem and Friendship believe me Dr. Sir your Humble Servt. W L.

I thought that I had wrote you, that the author of the Horse Sol: is a Mr Searle — who was Secretary to Lord Howe During the Last War, — & now Enjoys a place under Governt. of about £12, or 15,00 a year — as they know him to be a man of Religion, as well as of Learning, & piety — He has wrote many pious Small tracts for the use of the poor &c I Sent you his Xian Remembrancer He is a very Singular Man in this Generation — tell me your opn: of His publications

your Correspondence — & D. Yesterday are in health 4 p.m.

Strike out your name in pencil if not

1792

It always gives me pleasure to see your hand writing upon a letter — I have new to thank you for a long one of the June 28th, & now look forward to the fulfilling of your promise to send me a few Solitary meditations, on Select texts of Scripture — I highly prize this gift tho' unseen, & will do it far more afterwards — I have often wished ~~that you to~~ be employed in this usefull work, which many try, who Darken Counsel &c —

You are Still Labouring under a suspicion that I will not forgive you for Suspecting Me Concerning the Nature of Evil Weeds, which you believed to spring up in My Corrupt heart, however among the Many, I wish that a root of bitterness, may Ever be a root of Security There, — far from blaming the Anxiety you Expressed, I looked upon it as a mark of true friendship, & was glad upon your Acc.t as well as My own, that I could discover

[illegible] bad Soil, — Nothing could Suit it worse, I Cor[illegible] [illegible] friends, May Sometimes blind the Eyes of My [illegible] with respect to their Errors, — & that having a beam in My own [illegible] prevent me from Seeing Clearly the Mote that is in My Br[illegible] — Exercise the greatest Caution, & Dread, for being led into th[illegible] Can understand his Errors &c &c — ? Tares will grow up in [illegible] O! what a blessing to know the truth ! Lord! teach Me - - - - Th[illegible] the Life ! &c &c - - - That [illegible]

I can have no doubt Concerning your usefullness Tho' it may not appear Conspicuous to yourself, — being Content with Math: M; L, & John, is a happy Sign, Tho' not a Sign of the times, — To whom Can we go ? or Should we go. to Seek the truth, but to the word of God which testifies it ? & Tho' all Men Should become Liars, this foundation Standeth Sure, — you Complain of preaching to a dead people — I wish I could tell you it was otherwise here, — A deep Sleep Seems to prevail over all ranks, So far as I can See or hear of - - - What Says Martin ? - - - I have cause to See no Church [illegible]

Sh 38

The Revd
Dr Nisbet
Carlyle America

Leith Mun
Aug 1792

[1792]

Dr. Sir

I have just received your Letter & parcel which has roused me as from a dream, & awakened in me sincere regrate for having never acknowledged your former long Letter. To convince you that I had intended it I send this sheet upon which I began an endeavor, but having let that opportunity slip have never found a more convenient season. I think myself become unfit for writing Letters. If ever I had any capacity that way it is much impaired, but I cease from apologies & admire your kindness in forgiving this seeming neglect indeed there is nothing real in it. You have Laid me under a great obligation by the treasure you have sent me, & for which I return you a great many thanks. I have not yet proved them, but know they need no proof, as they are from the same tree from which I have twisted sweet fruit formerly. I wonder Mr. Martin did not deliver the commisn. I gave him to thank you & make my excuse for not writing when he did. He is now happy with getting his son a preacher, & a Kirk. It gives me great pleasure to find your health is so good, it sometimes comes across to me that you will yet land on your native shore, & in the Remainder of your Life enjoy the Society of some old friends, among whom I rank myself. I am frail & feeble as to health, at the same time wonder that I am so well. It is indeed a singular mercy to be free from many of these distresses incident to old age. My dr. friend is surprisingly healthy, & all our childn & 2 g. children healthy. I must tell you a circumstance that is matter of wonder and praise. Our son John in the guards returned to Britain just when the army was preparing to attack Valencenes which was a very unlooked for event by his anxious friends & as comfortable as unexpected. The cause was that three companies were to be varied & added to the Regt. & he was appointed to one of them which gives him the rank of Col., besides bringing him home. I leave

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it to you to reflect how this ought to affect tender Parents, yet we ought always to rejoice with trembling, not knowing where our danger or safety lies, in the mean time it is relieving. The situation of our troops before Valencenes engroses the attention of all ranks & denominations at present. What dreadfull havock, & barbarity, have been committed since I wrote you last. What the end of these things will be, is only known to Him that knoweth all things. O! that man would become wiser, & better by the judgemt of the Lord, since goodness & mercy would not bring to repentance.

Mr. Martin will write you news, I am a very bad retailer, & indeed a small sketch would fill a Vol., will send you some news papers where you will find much true, & much false. The siege of Valencs. engroses at present the attention & anxiety of the publick. May mercy prevent dreadfull consequences. I daresay people in Philadelphia get news papers from Britain. Scotch Ns Papers will find your table last. We are all quiet at present. No sickness or Pains are troubling our constitutions. It is thought that the many late receipts for curing publick disorder have had a good Effect. The rights of men have been of more use to show them curings by many just commentarys published on this subject than any method that could have been discovered.

Augt. The News of the Surrender at Valencs. came to our ears, & is indeed wonder in our

eyes (I wish it was more believed to be the doing of Lord but nothing yet has been said in all the accts. which announce this wonderfull success to a higher power than man) that such an event has been brought abt. with the help of so few men is indeed marvelous. I will send you news papers,& leave all remarks to your invention which is not only fertile but witty & wise.

I have been finished with your notes, which I have now read, & thank you very much for them. They have no fault, but a small one. If ever you write any more to me you must stretch out your hand in pity to my dim sight. A great mercy however that it is no worse.

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My Lord read some of them easily by candle light. Would you have any objection to publishing some parts of those notes if Dr. Erskine approved, there are some remarks that would be well timed, & might be usefull. The author might, or might not be concealed. Dr. E published a sermon sometime ago which he was solicited to do, which I will send you, he preached a sermon at Dr. Robs. death, which together with a lecture, were esteemed to be masterpieces, bad health prevents his complying with the many earnest solicitations to publish them, it is with much pleasure that I venture to say he is continuing better, & preaches often tho' very poorly, a wonderful man! Dr. Gillen is also much recovered, has at last been prevailed upon to take an assistant. Mr. Gillen Dyed in winter, after which event Mrs. Leslie Stind with him now half a year. he is always anxious to hear abt. you. I take it for granted that Mr. Martin instructs you wt. regard to the publick. I hope in time they will improve, and truth prevail agt. Error, as enquiry has been making concerning it, at Drs. E & Hawter, & their part.

O! it is Strange to Reflect that America is now so much in the French interest. I should only imagine it to be copy of their countenance, & that Britain will still have a hold of their hearts. Tho' parents may have been thought harsh, and severe in their measures, yet they are Parents still, & blood is stronger than water, as the Proverb says. Perhaps they may yet write, & take one of own prisoners to rule over them what says Notre Adams?? I hope somebody sent you Mr. Fleming's prophetical conjectures concerning many things. I have yet one copy. Now that I have entered upon small talk, I shall rather tire, than either edify or amuse you. It is however a consolation to me, to see that I have covered so much paper, in cracking with my worthy fd. in a far country, which would much rather do it at McHill fireside. It is always a great pleasure to me to hear from you, let me know what is doing either pulblick, or private. how you are now with respect to temporal concerns, & how religion advances, or decline. Any encouragement for good mins. if we could spare any from our small stock. Indeed it is not the best here, that generally get the great

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greatest encouragement. Perhaps you may Send as a sample of your divines. I should like them of your raising if they answer your wishes, & care. Many of ours are of the fashionable sort & seem to have learned a new creed. I do not know how they come to sign the Confes. of F. with a safe Consc. We do not hear many of them, but much of them. Their burthen indeed seems to be light, & that they have kind abode every night, & all befiting son's, & teaching man so to do. but not in the way that He teaches, who taught as never man taught, & as cannot be learned by the

precepts of man. They have never yet learned of Him, who said "take my yoke upon you." Tho' I fear this class of divines old & young are too numerous yet there are Many Excellent pious young men, but I must not waste my paper leaving to thank you gratefully for another Letter just now received, of Date June 14. I take this as a great mark of kindness, especially, when I was appearing to you under the mask of unkindness, forgetfulness, tho' a very unfair copy of my countenance towards you, my worthy old friend. I desire that whatever appearances may occur in that faintly light that you may treat them as not even shadows of the truth. which I have told you at the beginning of this, sorry you should not make any op. of yr. excellent notes which we highly praise, & wish they, & more of the same usefull tendency was in print. I'm sorry for what you write me concerning Dr. Rush. It is not correspondent to his former problems of friendship. He must ever have my regard, & good wishes, as in duty bound, but many are the changes which a little time produces in this uncertain state of things. Blessed be God! That the foundation standeth sure "This is firm fasting, all in son beside". I cannot pretend to answer your letter but to say that I approve of all the solid reasoning which it contains, & to beg the continuance of so edifying a correspondence & of informing me concerning the situation of your family. Beg able to know how Dr. Witherspoon stood the operation & if it had any good effects, which I sincerely wish, & would beg of you if you have any correspondence with him to say that I remember him with esteem & good wishes, tho' some of his works I did not esteem him for…My Good friend send his best respects to you. he is much Entertained with your correspondence. Ld. R's family are in health. 4 promising sons. Lady

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Ruthvam 2 sons & 5 dr. all healthy & thriving so far. her Eldest son has been above a year in Engld. with Mr. DeCourey who was in this country long ago in L. Glen's family & is now settled at Shermbury, all the young mans tutors approved of his going there, & even had a visit of him & Mr. DeC this summer, he is much improved & much beloved by everybody. I write you this as it is matter of great thankfulness, the girls all very promising at present. Sr. J & L. Jane well & their only dr. a tall fine girl. have you any gd. children? Where & how are yr. young people employed? & how Dr. Mrs. N keeps her health? This is all that I can collect for your edification. Perhaps you will not find any thing of that sort. I should have said information. Whatever it contains, I intend it as a specimen of good will, which you must accept of for the deed. With esteem and friendship believe me Dr. Sir

Your Humble Servt.

W.L.

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