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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Charles Nisbet to Mary Nisbet

**Date:** 1791-1799

**Location:** MC 2001.7

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Carlisle, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1791.

Dear Mary,

As you had never formerly been absent, I never had Occasion to write you till now, & as you expected to hear from us, I can only assure you of the Continuance of our Affections, & our sincere Wishes for your Happiness. I still continue to call your Sister by your Name, & will probably do so for a long time. Remember that the Happiness of your life depends on your own Behaviour, & not on outward Circumstances. As you are entered into a married State, you ought to consider that you ought to study to make your Husband happy, & to avoid every thing that may displease him, if you expect that he should promote your Happiness. Ingratitude & making ill Returns for Affection is one of the basest Vices of human Nature. When a Woman makes Use of the Power that she has over her Husband's Affections, to torture him with perpetual Contradiction & Disobedience, in hopes that his Affection will make him blind to her faults, or oblige him to forgive them, she then becomes the worst of Tyrants & Tormentors. Too great familiarity & Openness is hurtful in the married State. A married Woman ought never to declare all her thoughts, especially those that are of a disagreeable Nature, as nothing can be more unpleasing than a continual Dropping, or perpetual Succession of Complaints about Trifles. If a Woman is continually telling what she hates, & remembering every thing that has offended her, she both destroys her own Happiness & that of her family, & likewise contracts a Habit of teasing & murmuring which renders her disagreeable to all that come within her Hearing. To overlook Trifles, & to suppress disagreeable Sensations, is one of the most important Lessons that can be given to a young Woman entering into the married State, as all the Quarrels & Bitternesses of a married life commonly arise from Trifles. A Propensity to perpetual talking is as disagreeable as a sullen Silence, an Affectation of continual Quiet is disgusting & suspicious. But if a Woman studies her own Happiness, she will regulate herself entirely by the Taste of her Husband, as to retain his Affection is of infinitely more importance to her, than to shine in Company, or to be esteemed a Wit by her Acquaintances. A Wife ought to delight in Solitude or Company cheerfulness or Gravity, precisely as either the one or the other is agreeable to her Husband at the time, as she should never think of being happy alone, far less of placing her Happiness in contradicting & tormenting him. It is agreeable to a Husband that his Wife should be esteemed by his friends & Acquaintances, but it is far more agreeable to him, that she retain his Esteem & Affection. The Happiness of a Husband, even in the smallest Matters, ought never to be a Matter of Indifference to a Wife, far less ought she to give others to under

land that his Happiness is indifferent to her. If a Husband is driven from home by the perpetual Murmurs of a Wife, he must soon lose all Affection to her, and be in Danger of being tempted to bad Courses. If it does not appear from the whole of a Woman's Conduct that she desires to please her husband, she will soon be suspected of Want of Sense, or Want of Gratitude, & if she studies to please others more than her husband, she will give him Cause to suspect that he has lost her Affection, & that she is not happy in his Company. The fear of losing a suitable Marriage conceals many Defects in young Women, which show themselves as soon as that fear is over. It is honourable to a Wife when one can say of her that she takes as much Care to preserve her Husband's Esteem & Affection after Marriage, as she did to merit or attract it before Marriage. Some Women give Way to an entire Carelessness of Behaviour, & Neglect of all Moderation and good Manners, as soon as they have no longer to fear that their Behaviour will prevent their Marriage. Such Conduct is most base & ungenerous, as well as unjust & impolitic, as a Woman can never render her Husband unhappy without being so herself at the same time, & what a Diabolical Disposition must it be for a Woman to torment herself, merely in order to render that Man miserable, who has preferred her to many others, & put his Happiness in her Power? A full Contentment with our Circumstances is necessary for the Happiness of the married State. If a Woman indulges herself in making Comparisons betwixt her Husband & other Men, to his Disadvantage, let her only consider how ill she should take it, if he were to entertain her with the Praises & Accomplishments of other Women. When a Woman marries by her own free Choice, all Complaints of her Husband or of any thing in his Circumstances are a Reproach to her Understanding, as well as a Proof of Ingratitude & Inconstancy. If both Husband & Wife do not find their greatest Happiness at home, & in the Company of each other it will be impossible for them to find it any where else. A good Beginning makes a good Ending. Both Parties ought to beware of the Beginning of Quarrels, & of a positive Temper that will yield nothing to another. The Repeating of Grievances & remembering disagreeable Circumstances is likewise to be avoided with the utmost Care. There are disagreeable things

know in life, without calling to Remembrance those that are past, or making trouble  
to ourselves, out of our own Imagination. To make the best of our own Circumstances,  
is, without wishing or thinking of a Change is the great Secret for obtaining hap-  
piness in a married life. A Woman ought to consider whether it will be better for  
her to see her husband happy & well-pleas'd, or miserable, licken'd & torment'd, as  
it depends on her conduct whether he shall be the one or the other. Frugality,  
Cheerfulness, Neatness, Complaisance, Industry, ~~Complaisance~~ <sup>Affection</sup> & good Manners,  
are the great Ornaments of a Wife, but none of these ought to be carried to  
Extremes, as too much of one thing is good for nothing. But above all things  
Religion is the greatest Ornament, as it is the Rule & Measure of every thing  
else, & ties us to the Observance of our Duties to others, by a continual Sense  
of the Presence of God, and of our infinite Obligations to his Goodness. If we  
lack Wisdom, as we all do by Nature, we must daily ask it of God, & depend  
on his Grace to enable us to conduct ourselves in the best Manner.

A family in which God is forgotten & disregarded can never either  
be a wiser or a happy one. If we have no Gratitude to God for his  
infinite Benefits, how can it be expected that we should be thankful  
to Men for lesser ones. If we call on him, & endeavour to please him  
we may expect his Blessing, but if we forsake him, he will forsake  
us.

Read your Bible, & endeavour to cultivate your Understanding by knowing  
your Duty, & your Heart by daily practising it, & beware of departing from  
it, even in Thought. You will be sure of our good Wishes & Concern for your  
Welfare, but you must study to secure their Effects by a modest, prudent and  
decent Behaviour. Your Mother is very mindful of your Concerns, & wishes  
that you may behave in the best Manner. I have written by Mr. Thornbury,  
who set out yesterday, to Mrs. Ritchie to send the Cloak that you ordered  
by the first Opportunity. Write us all the Particulars of your Situation  
at length by first Opportunity. I shall desire Mr. Turnbull to do the like  
as far as Business permits. I have dispatched Six Letters to your friends  
in Scotland, to intimate to them the Change in your Situation, Pray let  
me always have the Pleasure of writing to them that you are doing well.  
Let us hear from you frequently. I am,

Dear Mary, Your affectionate Father  
Chas. Nesbit.

Carlisle, 25th Oct.r, 1791.

Dear Mary,

As you had never formerly been absent, I never had Occasion to write you till now, & as you expected to hear from us, I can only assure you of the Continuance of our Affection, & our sincere Wishes for your Happiness. I still continue to call your Sister by your Name, & will probably do so for a long time. Remember that the Happiness of your life depends on your own Behaviour & not on outward Circumstances. As you are entered into a married state, you ought to consider that you ought to study to make your Husband happy, & to avoid every thing that may displease him, if you expect that he should promote your Happiness. Ingratitude & making ill returns for Affection is one of the basest Vices of human Nature. When a Woman makes Use of the Power that she has over her Husband's Affections, to torture him with perpetual Contradiction & Disobedience, in hopes that his Affection will make him blind to her faults, or oblige him to forgive them, she then becomes the worse of Tyrants & Tormentors. Too great familiarity & Openness is hurtful in the married state. A married Woman ought never to declare all her thoughts, especially those that are of a disagreeable Nature, as nothing can be more displeasing than a continual Dropping, or perpetual Succession of Complaints about Trifles. If a Woman is continually telling what she hates, & remembering every thing that has offended her, she both destroys her own Happiness & that of her family & likewise contracts a Habit of teasing & murmuring which must render her disagreeable to all that come within her Hearing. To overlook Trifles, & to support disagreeable sensations, is one of the most important Lessons that can be given to a young Woman entering into the Married State, as all the Quarrels & Bitternesses of a married life commonly arise from Trifles. A propensity to perpetual talking is as disagreeable as a sullen Silence. An Affectation of continual gaiety is disgusting & suspicious. But if a Woman studies her own Happiness, she will regulate herself entirely by the Taste of her Husband, as to retain his affection is of infinitely more importance to her, than to shine in Company, or to be esteemed a Wit by her Acquaintances. A Wife ought to delight in solitude or Company, Cheerfulness or Gravity, precisely as either the one or the other is agreeable to her Husband at the time, as she should never think of being happy alone, far less of placing her happiness in contradicting & tormenting him. It is agreeable to a Husband that his Wife should be esteemed by his friends & Acquaintances but it is far more agreeable to him, that she retain his Esteem & Affection. The Happiness of a Husband, even in the smallest Matters, ought never to be a Matter of Indifference to a Wife, far less ought she to give others to under

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Marriage. Some Women give way to an entire Carelessness of Behaviour, & Neglect of all Moderation and good Manners, as soon as they have no longer to fear that their Behaviour will prevent their Marriage. Such Conduct is most base & ungenerous, as well as unjust & impolitic, as a Woman can never render her Husband unhappy without being to herself at the same time, & what a Diabolical Disposition must it be for a Woman to torment herself, merely in order to render that Man miserable, who has preferred her to many others, & put his Happiness in her Power? A full Contentment with our Circumstances is necessary for the Happiness of the married State. If a Woman indulges herself in making Comparisons betwixt her Husband & other Men, to his Disadvantage, let her only consider how ill, she should take it, if he were to entertain her with the Praises & Accomplishments of other Women. When a Woman marries by her own free Choice, all Complaints of her Husband or of any thing in his Circumstances are a Reproach to her Understanding, as well as a Proof of Ingratitude & Inconstancy. If both Husband & Wife do not find their greatest Happiness at home, & in the Company of each other it will be impossible for them to find it any where else. A good Beginning makes a good Ending. Both Parties ought to beware of the Beginning of Quarrels, & of a positive temper that will yield nothing to another. The Repeating of Grievances & remembering disagreeable Circumstances is likewise to be avoided with the utmost Care. There are disagreeable things

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Dear Mary, Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1791.

I could not let the Bearer Mr. Wilson depart, without scrawling you a few lines, tho' it is rather to show you how I intend to do in future, than for any thing that I have time to say to you just now. We are all concerned for poor Tom, who got a Bruise & Sprain in his left Ankle this Day when he was about to leave us, as his Horse only arrived two Days ago. He had got up on a Bench in Mr. Postlethwaite's house, to be out of the Way while the fire was mending, & in stepping down, found his coat had catch'd hold of something behind him, which made him lose the Ballance of his Body, & knock his Ankle against the Andiron, & sprain it at the same time. He is much pained at present, but we hope that the Applications that have been made to his Leg may give him Ease. This you know is the second Misfortune that he has brought on himself for want of Thought. But there is no such thing as making some People think. We received your letters by Gen. Gibson, as well as Mr. Turnbull's, & your former letters, & are glad that after all the fatigue of your Journey you are safely settled at Pittsburgh. I hope that Miss Montgomery is safely arrived with my Letters. Present my Compliments to her, & tell her that I hope she will like Pittsburgh as well as her Sister and you have done. I have no time to offer you any Advice, but you will remember that the Happiness or Misery of a married Life depends -



greatly on a right Oulset, as Confidence is either acquired or lost, while  
People are in some Degree Strangers to each other, & if they would be advised  
to behave as they wish to do to such Strangers as they make welcome, it  
would not be a bad Rule of Conduct. Mr. Turnbull knows how to act his  
Part well, but that is a Reason for your Studying to act yours as well as pos-  
sible. as those who behave well, have a Right to expect good Usage in Re-  
turn. When a Man has any one visible fault, the Wife will soon think that  
she may indulge herself in two, & thus Injuries are multiplied without  
End, but the Wife of a Person of impeccable Character, ought to have  
a strict Eye on her Behaviour, as she has no Opportunity of pleading for  
Allowances on Account of his Errors, & can not hope for friends if she  
fails in her Duty. In this licentious Age, even married Women are  
not out of the Reach of Temptation, & if a Woman by Levity give En-  
couragement to it, which she may do with the greatest Innocence, and  
without the remotest Intention of Evil, she may make herself miserable  
for life by her Imprudence & Want of Caution. Confidence once gain'd  
is easily retain'd, but if a Woman does not from the very beginning  
show that she is worthy of Confidence, she can not hope to acquire  
it afterwards. And where Confidence is wanting, every thing must be  
wanting. Frugality, neatness & Attention to family Concerns, are things  
of which you have some Experience, but it is now that you will be  
sensible of their Importance. To begin well, & to keep it always in ones  
Power to enlarge; & to be without fear of retrenching is best for the

Ease of one's Mind, as well as that of their Circumstances. Luxury is as  
useless, as Neatness & decent Plenty are agreeable. You have no Call to  
wander about, & I hope you will not let your Neighbour Mrs. Robs seduce  
you to any of the Balls at Marietta, Venango, or Sanduski. You have  
felt that Travelling is disagreeable, & I can assure you that Sailing, ~  
especially in a Canoe, is neither safe nor pleasant. I hope that you will  
not frequent the Bear-Huntings, or any Frolics on the  
other Side of the Allegany & Monongahela, as the  
Indians may come to these Solitudes without Invi-  
tation, not to mention that we have Indians enow of  
our own, against whom a prudent Woman ought to be  
no less on her Guard than if the dreaded Scalping  
& Tomahawking. Let us have the Pleasure of hearing  
that you are happy & that you conduct yourself with Propriety in  
your Station, which is all the Satisfaction that we can have of you  
at this Distance. You can not imagine how great an Interest your  
Mother & I take in every Thing that relates to your Happiness and  
Reputation. Let us hear from you often. I am,

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Cha.<sup>s</sup> Nisbet.

Carlisle, 12th Nov.r 1791

Dear Mary,

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Ease of one' Mind, as well as that of their Circumstances. Luxury is as useless, as Neatness & decent Plenty are agreeable. You have no Call to wander about, & I hope you will not let your Neighbour Mrs. Ross seduce you to any of the Balls at Marietta, Venango, or Sanduski. You

have felt that Travelling is disagreeable, & I can assure you that Sailing, especially in a Canoe, is neither safe nor pleasant. I hope that you will not frequent the Bear Huntings, or any Frolics on the other Side of the Alleganny & Monengahela, as the Indians may come to these solemnities without Invitation, not to mention that we have Indians enow of our own, against whom a prudent Woman ought to be no less on her Guard than of the dreaded Scalping & tomahawking. Let us have the Pleasure of hearing that you are happy & that you conduct yourself with Propriety in your Station, which is all the satisfaction that we can have of you at this Distance. You can not imagine how great an Interest your Mother & I take in every thing that relates to your Happiness and Reputation. Let us hear from you often. I am,

Dear Mary,  
Your most affectionate Father,

Cha.s Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1791.

We received yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Denny & sincerely sympathise with your Situation. It was no Wonder that you thought of removing when you had heard of the lamentable Defeat of the Army. You would have been very kindly received here, but we hope you will be in Time till Mr. Turnbull makes his intended Journey this Way in March next, & by that time it will be known what Government intend to do for the Defence of the Frontiers. Mrs. Turnbull's Trunk is brought here safe. The Waggoner is a very civil Man, & would hardly receive Payment for carrying it. I think you should recommend him to Mr. Turnbull, if he has any thing to bring from Philadelphia. We hope that you are now composed, but we wish to hear by every Opportunity of the Continuance of your Safety, & that your Apprehensions have subsided. Mr. Grier is to be the Bearer of this. I hope your People will give him a ~~fair~~ Hearing & afterwards a Call to be their Minister, as it is not likely that they will get the Offer of such another. Abson is out of Town at Mrs. Smith's, otherwise she would have written you Tom is expected here in the End of ~~next~~<sup>this</sup> Week. The Weather has been clear, cold & dry for a great While past, & still continues so. We have got three Stoves in our Meeting, but your Mother

is uneasy with their Smoke & the Smell of the Iron, See that  
you write us often, & let us know if your Neighbours are in  
any Apprehensions of the Indians, & what Accounts you hear  
from Kentucky. A Report has prevailed here, that a Road  
was cut out from Detroit to Pittsburgh, by Persons unknown.  
But we can not think that it is true, or that the English have  
any Intentions of invading you, tho' no doubt they favour and  
privately support the Indians. I hope that Mr. Turnbull will  
take Care to get you conveyed to the Iron Works in case of any  
Danger. Your Mother fears lest you should not be safe there  
as the Indians may come by private Roads & in Cover of the  
Woods, but I hope they have never come so far on this Side  
the River. And I suppose the Workmen have Arms & Ammu-  
nition. I hope that Providence may provide some Defence  
before Summer next, but we have little trust to put in the  
Wisdom of our Governours. Mr. Blaine may bring you a  
Letter from me before you receive this. Hoping to hear often  
from you & wishing you many happy Years, I am,

Dear Mary, your affectionate Father  
Chas: Nisbet.

O. S. You did not mention how your People were pleased  
with Mr. Deany.

Carlisle, 27th Decr 1791.

Dear Mary,

We received yours of the 12th by Mr. Denny & sincerely sympathise with your Situation. It was no Wonder that you thought of removing when you had heard of the lamentable Defeat of the Army. You would have been very kindly received here, but we hope you will be in Quiet till Mr. Turnbull makes his intended journey this Way in March next, & by that time it will be known what Government intend to do for the Defence of the Frontiers. Mrs. Turnbull's Trunk is brought here safe. The Waggoner is a very civil Man, & would hardly receive Payment for carrying it, I think you should recommend him to Mr. Turnbull, if he has anything to bring from Philadelphia. We hope that you are now composed, but we wish to hear by every Opportunity of the Continuance of your Safety, & that your Apprehensions have subsided. Mr. Grier is to be the Bearer of this. I hope your People will give him a fair Hearing & afterwards a Call to be their Minister, as it is not likely that they will get the Offer of such another. Alison is out of Town at Mrs. Smith's, otherwise she would have written you Tom is expected here in the end of ~~next~~ this week. The Weather has been clear, cold & dry for a great While past, & still continues so. We have got three Stoves in our Meeting, but your Mother

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father

Cha.s Nisbet

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P.S. You did not mention how your People were pleased with Mr. Denny



Dear Mary

Carlisle, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1792.

We received yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> by Post, but that which you say you wrote from Headley's, never came to hand. It was great Grief to us to hear of your two falls, but we cannot help thinking that both you & Mr. Turnbull must have been too careless, and we wonder that after your first Fall, you should immediately have caught a second. Misfortunes, it is said, seldom come single, and it is the greatest Misfortune to be careless, as that may produce great Numbers of others. This Plague is very sickly at present, & Fluxes are raging among young & old. Many People are dying, both in the Town & Country. We have Reason to be thankful that we are all in good health. Mr. Jonathan Walker's Child is dead, & he & Mrs. Walker are in this Town at present. The Weather has been cool & cloudy for some Days, but there has been but little Rain. Write us when you get in to your own House, and especially how you keep your Health, as we are still afraid that the Effects of your fall & fright may stick to you. Take Care of your self even in moving about the House. Do not imagine that you may take the same freedom as others, or as you yourself might have done formerly. You will be exposed to Company, which is a great Trial to a young Woman. Do not talk familiarly with every Body that visits you, & remember that all Visitors are not true friends, but that many come to spy you, & to get something to tell to your Disadvantage. Give no Materials to such as these, and this you can not do, without keeping up a decent Reserve in general. You need not tell to every one, any unfavourable Opinions that you may have of others, as they will be diligent to report it, & perhaps with Additions. Most Quarrels owe their Rise to needless speaking of the Characters of others, & officiously circulating their Opinions. Give no Countenance to light or indecent Conversation, & neither join it, nor hear it on any Account. A Woman that does not testify her Displeasure by leaving the Company when any improper Conversation is introduced, is supposed to be used to it, or to delight in it. Silence or affecting not to understand what is said, is no Defence against this Supposition. As you know that my life has not many Comforts, & that it will be one of the chief of them to hear that you are happy, & conducting yourself with Propriety, I hope you will endeavour to give me this Satisfaction as much as possible, especially as it will be no less for your own Good. Observe Moderation in every thing, & never speak for the sake of entertaining the Company. Let them find Entertainment for themselves, & be you content with your own share in Conversation. Never interrupt any Person's Discourse, except in the case of swearing, falsehood, Indelicacy or Impertinence. Never use more Words than are necessary, & be careful to think before you speak. Never admit any Jestings on serious Subjects, nor encourage those who do so. Be contented with your Lot, & think how many are in far worse Situations. As you do not want Books, nor an Inclination to Reading, you are under no Necessity of going about only to other Peoples Houfes, to entreat them to help you to get rid of your time. Let the Affairs of your House & Family be your daily Study, & endeavour to do every thing in its proper time, & in the best Manner, without Noise, Hurry or Bustle. Let the Effects of your Care be seen rather than heard of: for some notable Housewives are not content with doing their Duty, but are continually talking over what they have done, & what a World of trouble it has cost them, how ill they are used, & what immense Patience they are obliged to exert, even when they are showing the greatest Impatience. A Woman let all the Merit of her Thrift & Diligence, if she makes a Parade of it in this Manner, & flurs her Husband & Family by the continual

Repetition of her unspeakable sufferings. Now it would be better for a Man to have some of his  
Work neglected, than to be told perpetually of the immense Trouble that it has cost. But the  
Laws that a Woman makes about her Work, she certainly reserves the more Praise for it.  
I hope that peacable times are a coming, & that your Town will increase, & many of its pre-  
sent Inconveniences will be removed, both with Respect to Want of Hands, & Danger from  
the Indians. And I have never heard that it was unhealthy. The Want of a good Road is in-  
deed a great Grievance, as you have experienced, but this may be remedied in some Measure  
soon, if People were attentive to their own Interest. Tho' the many Roads that are desiring of  
one, by Mark, by the Susquehanna, & the Aquicola, must hinder any one good Road for  
a considerable time. Beware of having too many Confidants, or of dealing in Secrets. Confidants  
are apt to betray, & there is a general Conspiracy for the Discovery of Secrets, both among  
those who are entrusted with them, & those who are not. Beware of repeating Grievances, or  
raising Contentions that are needless. Enter into no Parties, nor undertake the Attack or De-  
fence of the Character of particular Persons. Defend those that are innocently accused, & do  
not blame any one unnecessarily. We often have Cause to repent that we have spoken, but  
rarely that we have been silent. To say any thing that comes in our heads, which is a Rule  
with many Women, is extremely dangerous, & may have bad Consequences, even when no  
Evil is intended, & it is too late to plead the Innocence of our Intentions when the Evil  
is actually done. Be more ready to hear than to speak, altho' you should not be much  
pleas'd or edify'd by what you hear. Never talk much of yourself, or your own Concerns  
or Contentions, as such Conversation is very apt to disgust, & may be thought to proceed of  
Vanity. Beware of Comparisons which are odious, to a proverb. Watch against violent Passi-  
ons, & immoderate Attachments or Antipathies, or telling what you hate, especially in  
common or indifferent things. Do not be at the pains to contradict or correct every thing  
which you hear wrong related, & let all your Interferences in the Conversation of others  
be short, easy & moderate. Study Peace & good Agreement, without intermeddling, or  
telling yourself up as a Judge of the Differences of others, which is a very thankless Office  
& procures much ill Will. A Woman who speaks a great Deal, is never well esteem'd,  
tho' she should say nothing that is impertinent or unwise. And most People love to well  
to hear themselves talk, that they are displeas'd with any Person who takes any consi-  
derable Part in the Conversation. It is hard to be always a Listener, but one may give  
their Opinion, when necessary, in a few Words, & oftentimes it is not necessary at all to  
give our Opinion. You may think that these Directions are needless or trifling, but on  
your Observation of them a great Deal of your Peace, & your Character among your  
Neighbours must necessarily depend. It is from little things commonly that great ones  
take their Rise, & most of the Contentions & Tumults in Society owe their Origin to mere  
Trifles. Be attentive to the actual Consequences of different Sorts of Behaviour, & remem-  
ber that a Woman will not be well spoke of, who lets her Character be known all at  
once. Beware of profuse Compliments to Strangers, or officious & troublesome Civilities,  
which disgust instead of obliging. Observe Moderation in every thing, & beware of Profes-  
sion as much as of Narrowness. Do not continue long in Company, & you will consult  
your own Happiness as well as that of others. Endeavour to be easy, & to make all

others about you envy, & never introduce any trifles, or disagree-  
it when introduced by others. Do not suffer your Temper to be ruffled,  
Anger before others. A Woman in a Passion is a most disagreeable Object  
are most nearly concerned with her. Attend to every thing that you see, or  
of others, not to tell it again, but to beware of doing the like yourself. & endeavour to profit by  
your own Errors, as well as by those of others. Good Nature, Mildness, & Compliance are the prin-  
cipal Ornaments of the female Character, next to Religion & Virtue. Beware of Thoughtlessness, or  
of speaking & acting at Random. Let not your Husband ever imagine that it is indifferent to you  
whether he is pleased or displeas'd, & never offer to give a Reason for any thing that necessarily dis-  
pleas'd or gives Offence. Every Body will be pleas'd with us when we show no Regard to their  
Opinion, or to their Honour & Opinion. A Woman who endeavours to shine in Company will often ex-  
pose herself, but will never gain Esteem. The best things may easily be turned into a Jest, if  
they are introduced unseasonably, or too often repeated, or too long insisted on. Beware of telling  
familiar Stories, as those who deal in this are often suspected of Embellishments, or varying in their  
Narration, as well as liable to offend by Repetition or Prolixity. Be sparing in your Remarks on  
the Stories told by others, a few of them will bear Criticism, & the Relator is sure to be offend'd,  
when any unfavourable Observations are made, however ingenious, or well-founded.  
Never seek the Reputation of a Wit, as the World, tho' unjustly, always suspect  
that a Woman of Wit has many ill Qualities, which she takes this Method of  
concealing. Give others Occasion of regretting that you speak too little, rather than  
of complaining that you speak too much. The Silence of a Woman is always  
more approv'd than the best things that she can say, & it often requires more  
Wisdom & Resolution to be silent, than to say good things. Distrust the Praises  
& Compliments of others especially if you observe that they are Deceit in such  
Words, & put them off to every Body. I have no Occurrences to write you from this Place.  
You know that I live in Solitude, & know little of other People's Affairs. But as I am anxious  
for your Happiness & good Character, I cannot contribute to it in any other Way at this Dist.  
once than by suggesting good Advice to you. I hope you will attend to them, & look over  
them frequently. I have had some Acquaintance with Mansfield, & you will find me often  
valours always confirm'd by Experience. If I were not sure that these Things were for your Wel-  
fare, I would neither give myself the Trouble of writing them, nor you that of reading them.  
And I hope you will pay a Regard to what I suggest to you at a Distance rather more than  
if I were making long Discourses to you in person, about your Behaviour. Beware of pay-  
ing or receiving Visits on Sabbaths, or giving any Encouragement to that Practice, as with  
most People it is not possible to hold such Conversations as will be even tolerable. Let me  
hear from you frequently, & be assur'd that I take the greatest Interest in every thing  
that relates to your Happiness & good Character. I have desired your Sister to write you  
& expect Mr. Addison to be the Bearer of this. When you hear of any body coming this  
Way, try to have a Letter ready for them when they set out, as I am doing just now.  
Remember me to Mr. Turnbull & all friends with you. I am,

Dear Mary  
your affectionate Father

Chas. Wesley.

Carlisle, 30th July, 1792.

Dear Mary,

We received yours of the 20th by Post, but that which you say you wrote from Hadley's, never came to hand. It was great Grief to us to hear of your two falls, but we cannot help thinking that both you & Mr. Turnbull must have been too careless, and we wonder that after your first Fall, you should immediately have caught a second. Misfortunes, it is said, seldom come single, but it is the greatest Misfortune to be careless, as that may produce great Numbers of others. This Place is very sickly at present, & Fluxes are raging among young & old. Many People are dying, both in the Town & Country. We have Reason to be thankful that we are all in good health. Mr. Jonathan Walker's child is dead, & he & Mrs. Walker are in this Town at present. The weather has been cool and cloudy for some Days, but there has been but little Rain. Write us when you get in to your own House, and especially how you keep your Health, as we are still afraid that the effects of your fall & fright may stick to you. Take care of your self even in moving about the House & do not imagine that you may take the same freedom as others, or as you yourself might have done formerly. You will be exposed to company, which is a Great Trial to a young Woman. Do not talk familiarly with every Body that visits you, & remember that all Visitors are not true friends, but that many come to spy you, & to get something to tell to your Disadvantage. Give no Materials to such as these, and this you can not do, without keeping up a decent Reserve in general. You need not tell to every one any unfavourable Opinion that you may have of others, as they will be diligent to repeat it, & perhaps with additions. Most Quarrels owe their Rise to needless speaking of the Characters of others & officiously circulating these Opinions. Give no Countenance to light or indecent Conversation, & neither join in it, nor hear it on account. A woman that does not testify her Displeasure by leaving the Company when any improper Conversation is introduced, is supposed to be used to it, or to delight in it, silence or affecting not to understand what is said, is no Defence against this Suspicion. As you know that my Life has not many Comforts, & that it will be one of the chief of them to hear that you are happy, & conducting yourself with Propriety. I hope you will endeavour to give me this Satisfaction as much as possible, especially as it will be no less for your own good. Observe Moderation in every thing, & never speak for the Sake of entertaining the Company. Let them find Entertainment for themselves, & be you content with your own share in Conversation. Never interrupt any Person's Discourse, except in the Case of swearing falshood, Indelicacy or Impertinence. Never use more Words than are necessary, & be careful to think before you speak. Never admit any Testing on serious Subjects, nor encourage those who do so. Be contented with your Lot, & think how many are in far worse situations. As you do not want Books, nor an Inclination to Reading, you are under no Necessity of going about idly to other Peoples Houses, to entreat them to help you to get rid of your time. Let the affairs of your House & family be your daily study, & endeavour to do every thing in its proper time, & in the best Manner, without Noise, Hurry, or Bustle. Let the Effects of your Case be seen rather than heard of, for some notable House wives are not content with doing their Duty, but are eternally talking over what they have done, & what a World of trouble it has cost them, how ill they are used, & what immense Patience they are obliged to exert, even when they are showing the greatest Impatience. A Woman loses all the Merit of her Thrift & Diligence, if she makes a parade of it in this Manner & shuns her Husband & family by the continual

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Repetition of her unspeakable Sufferings. Now it would be better for a Man to have some of his work neglected, than to be told perpetually of the immense Trouble that it has cost. But the less noise that a Woman makes about her Work, she certainly deserves the more Praise for it. I hope that peaceable times are a coming, & that your Town will encrease & many of its present Inconveniencies will be removed, both with Respect to Want of Hands, & Danger from the Indians. And I have never heard that it was unhealthful. The Want of a good road is indeed a great Grievance, as you have experienced, but this may be corrected in some Measure soon, if People were attentive to their own Interest, tho' the many Roads that are devising at once, by York, by the Susquehanna, & the Juniata, must hinder any one good Road for a considerable time. Beware of having too many confidants, or of dealing in Secrets. Confidants are apt to betray, & there is a general Conspiracy for the Discovery of Secrets, both among those who are entrusted with them, & those who are not. Beware of repeating Grievances, or receiving contentions that are extinct. Enter into no Parties, nor undertake the Attack or Defence of the Characters of particular Persons. Defend those that are innocently accused, & do not blame any one unnecessarily. We often have cause to repent that we have spoken, but rarely that we have been silent. To say anything that comes in our heads, which is a Rule with many Women, is extremely dangerous, & may have bad consequences, even when no evil is intended, & it is too late to plead the Innocence of ones Intentions when the Evil is actually done. Be more ready to hear than to speak, altho' you should not be pleased or edified by what you hear. Never talk much of yourself, or your own concerns or connexions, as such conversation is very apt to disgust, & may be thought to savour of Vanity. Beware of Comparisons which are odious, to a Proverb. Watch against violent Passions, & immoderate attachments or antipathies, or telling what you hate, especially in common or indifferent things. Do not be at the Pains to contradict or correct every thing which you hear wrong related, & let all your Interferences in the Conversations of others be short, easy, & moderate. Study Peace & good Agreement, without intermeddling, or setting yourself up as a Judge of the Differences of others, which is a very thankless office & promises much ill will. A Woman who speaks a great Deal, is never well esteemed, tho' she should say nothing that is impertinent or amiss. And most People love so well to hear themselves talk, that they are displeas'd with every Person who takes any considerable Part in the Conversation. It is hard to be always a Hearer, but one may give their opinions, when necessary, in a few Words, & oftentimes it is not necessary at all to give our Opinions. You may think that these Directions are needless or trifling, but on your observation of them a great Deal of your Peace, & your Character among your Neighbours must necessarily depend. It is from little things commonly that great ones take their Rise, & most of the Contentions & Enmities in Society owe their Origin to mere Trifles. Be attentive to the actual Consequences of different sorts of Behaviour, & remember that a Woman will not be well spoke of, who lets her Character be known all at once. Beware of profuse Compliments to strangers, or officious & troublesome Civilities which disgust instead of obliging. Observe moderation in every thing, & beware of Profusion as much as of Narrowness. Do not continue long in Company, & you will compell your own Happiness as well as that of others. Endeavor to be easy, & to make all

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others about you easy, & never introduce any troublesome, or disagreeable [*Page torn, words missing*] if when introduced by others. Do not suffer your Temper to be ruffled. [*Page torn, words missing*] your anger before others. A woman in a Passion is most disagreeable Object [*ct added, page torn, words missing*] who are most nearly concerned with her. Attend to everything that you see [*Page torn, words missing*] conduct of others, not to tell it again, but beware of doing the like yourself, & endeavour to profit by your own Errors, as well as by those of others. Good Nature, Mildness, & Complaisance are the Principal Ornaments of the female Character, next to Religion & virtue. Beware of Thoughtlessness, or of speaking & acting at Random. Let not your Husband ever imagine that it is indifferent to you whether he is pleased or displeas'd, & never offer to give a Reason for anything that necessity displeases or gives Offense. Every Body will be displeas'd with us when we show no Regard to their Peace, or to their Esteem & Opinion. A Woman who endeavours to shine in Company will often expose herself, but will never gain esteem. The best things may easily be turned into [*Page torn, words missing*] they are introduced unseasonably, or too often repeated, or too long insisted on. Beware of telling formal Stories, as those who deal in this are often suspected of Embellishments, or varying in the Narration, as well as liable to offend by Repetition or Prolixity. Be sparing in your Remarks on the Stories told by others, as few of them will bear Criticism, & the Relator is sure to be offended, when any unfavourable Observations are made, however ingenious, or well-founded. Never seek the Reputation of a Wit, as the World, tho' unjustly, always suspect that a Woman Of Wit has many ill Qualities, which she takes this Method of concealing. Give others Occasion of regretting that you speak so little, rather than of complaining that you speak so much. The Silence of a Woman is always more approved than the best things that she can say, & it often requires more Wisdom & Reputation to be silent, than to say good things. Distrust the Praises & Compliments of others, especially if you observe that they are Dealers in such Wares, & put them off to every Body. I have no Occurrences to write you from this Place. You know that I live in Solitude, & know little of other People's Affairs. But as I am anxious for your Happiness & good Character, & cannot contribute to it in any other Way at this Distance than by suggesting good advices to you, I hope you will attend to them, & look over them frequently. I have had acquaintance with Mankind, & you will find my Observations always confirmed by Experience. If I were not sure that these Hints were for your welfare, I would neither give myself the Trouble of writing them, nor you that of reading them. And I hope you will pay a Regard to what I suggest to you at a Distance rather more than if I were making long Discourses to you in person, about your Behaviour. Beware of paying or receiving Visits on Sabbaths, or giving any encouragement to that Practice, as with most People it is not possible to hold such conversation as will be even tolerable. Let me hear from you frequently & be assured that I take the greatest Interest in every thing that relates to your Happiness & good Character. I have desired your Sister to write you & expect Mr. Addison to be the Bearer of this. When you hear of anybody coming this Way, try to have a Letter ready for them when they set out, as I am doing just now. Remember me to Mr. Turnbull & all friends with you. I am

Dear Mary  
Your affectionate Father

Chas Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1792.

We received Mr. Turnbull's Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. containing the News of your safe Delivery on the 11<sup>th</sup>. You could not be more happy on that Occasion, than your Mother & I were on receiving the News of it, which we did not expect to hear of so soon. But altho' your Delivery is over, your Mother is still anxious about you, as Women in your Situation require much Care, & are exposed to so many Accidents, which young Women especially are sometimes not careful enough to avoid. She hopes that you will take strict Care of your Health, for fear of Relapses, & that you will not talk much to those who come to visit you, till you have in a good Measure recovered your Strength, & that you will beware of Motion till the Month is expired. She wishes likewise to be informed of every thing relating to your Health, & that of your Child. We hope that Alison will endeavour to be serviceable to you, especially during your Confinement. I had just returned from a Journey to York, when Mr. Turnbull's Letter arrived, & as we had no Wine, your Mother allowed us a Bowl of Brandy Punch to drink to your happy Recovery & the Health of your Child. Tell Alison that Mrs. Bowie is arrived, & expects to see her at York with her first Conveyance. She is a very gentle & sensible young Woman, & I can assure you has not come empty, having brought a Waggon Load & a half of Baggage, which must have cost a great Deal of Money. Miss Susanna Thomson died here on Saturday last, as you would learn from our Newspaper. Miss Peggy Smith was married yesternight to Mr. Arthur of Pine Grove. Your Mother has been pretty well since Alison left us. Let us know how she keeps her Health, & whether she & the young Girls are helpful to you in your House-keeping. — We had a high Wind here on Friday last Week, by which the Methodist Meeting-house was blown down, but I hear of no other Damage. Mrs. Bowie brought me very little News, & only one Letter from Scotland, viz. from Capt. Stuart, who is still very tender, & who left his Wife last Year. She had a short Passage of five Weeks & three days from Greenock to New York. The Ship had only fifty seven Passengers. One of them was a Child of Mr. Todd's of Long Island, who had been at Greenock to see her two Aunts, who are settled there. Another of them was a Mrs. Turnbull, the Wife of a Merchant, formerly in the Lucken boats, & now in New York, who is come over to her husband, who has been fifteen Years

in this Country. We hope you received ours by Mr. Mahon. I expect Sunday Letters from Scotland this fall, of the contents of which I will inform you when they arrive. The Weather has been cold here since the Rains on Friday & Sabbath last, tho' it is still hot in the middle of the Day. Your Mother has engaged the Boy that used to live with Mr. Parker for the ensuing Winter, but being now at School, he can not enter till the Beginning of next ~ Month. His Parents having a Design to put him to a Trade, consented by way of favour that he should stay some time with us. We hope that your Garrison still remains with you. ~~our~~ Newspapers still make us uneasy with Accounts of Damages done by the Indians. The Philadelphia Newspapers gave Notice of a Battle said to be fought by General Wayne in which they said that 1300 Indians were killed, with little Loss on our Side. This News they pretended to have received from Stock-bridge in Connecticut, but you must know that it is all a fiction. The last Accounts from Europe are that the Queen of France is murdered, & that the King has made his Escape, but whether he is now alive or not, is not known. The Prussian & Russian Army was within thirty Miles of Paris. England & Scotland are full of Complaints against the Government, & there has been Insurrections in Sutherland & Ross Shire on Account of the Turnpike Acts. Remember us kindly to Mr. Jumball & family, & all friends with you.

I ever am

Dear Mary,

Your affectionate father,

Cha. Nisbet.



Carlisle, 20th October, 1792

Dear Mary,

We received Mr. Turnbull's Letter of the 12th containing the News of your safe Delivery on the 11th. You could not be more happy on that Occasion, than your Mother & I were on receiving the News of it, which we did not expect to hear of so soon. But altho' your Delivery is over, your Mother is still anxious about you, as Women in your situation require much Care, & are exposed to so many Accidents, which young Women especially are sometimes not careful enough to avoid. She hopes that you will take strict Care of your Health, for fear of Relapses, & that you will not talk much to those who come to visit you, till you have in a good Measure recovered your Strength, & that you will beware of Motion till the Month is expired. She wishes likewise to be informed of every thing relating to your Health, & that of your Child. We hope that Alison will endeavour to be serviceable to you, especially during your Confinement. I had just returned from a Journey to York, when Mr. Turnbull's Letter arrived, & as we had no Wine, your Mother allowed us a Bowl of Brandy Punch to drink to your happy Recovery & the Health of your Child. Tell Alison that Mrs. Bowie is arrived, & expects to see her at York with her first Conveniency. She is a very genteel & sensible young Woman, & I can assure you has not come empty, having brought a Waggon Load & a half of Baggage, which must have cost a great Deal of Money. Miss Susanna Thomson died here on Saturday last, as you would learn from our Newspaper. Miss Peggy Smith was married yesternight to Mr. Arthur of Pine Grove. Your Mother has been pretty well since Alison left us. Let us know how she keeps her Health, & whether she & the young Girls are helpful to you in your House-keeping. We had a high Wind here on Friday last Week, by which the Methodist Meeting-house was blown down, but I hear of no other Damage. Mrs. Bowie brought me very little News, & only one Letter from Scotland, viz. from Capt. Stuart, who is still very tender, & who lost his Wife last Year. She had a Short Passage of five Weeks & three days from Greenock to New York. The Ship had only fifty seven Passengers. One of them was a Child of Mr. Todd's of Long Islands who had been at Greenock to see her two Aunts, who are settled there. Another of them was a Mrs. Turnbull, the Wife of a Merchant formerly in the Lucken booths, & now in New York, who is come over to her husband, who has been Fifteen Years

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in this Country. We hope you received ours by Mr. Mahon. I expect sundry Letters from Scotland this fall, of the Contents of which I will inform you when they arrive. The Weather has been cold here since the Rains on Friday & Sabbath last, tho' is still hot in the Middle of the Day. Your Mother has engaged the Boy that used to live with Mr. Parker for the ensuing Winter, but being now at School, he can not enter till the Beginning of next month. His parents having a Design to put him to a Trade, consented by way of favour that he should stay some time with us. We hope that your Garrison still remains with you as our Newspapers still make us uneasy with Accounts of Damages done by the Indians. The Philadelphia Newspapers gave Notice of a Battle said to be fought by General Wayne in which they said that 1300 Indians were killed, with little Loss on our Side. This News they pretended to have received from Stock-bridge in Connecticut, but you must know that it is all a fiction. The last Accounts from Europe are that

the Queen of France is murdered & that the King has made his Escape, but whether he is now alive or not, is not known. The Prussian & Austrian Army was within thirty miles of Paris. England & Scotland are full of Complaints against the Government, & there has been Insurrections in Sutherland & Ross Shire on Account of the Turnpike Acts. Remember us kindly to Mr. Turnbull & family, & all friends with you, I ever am,

Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet

Carlisle, 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1792.

Dear Mary,

We received yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> cur! & though we were glad to receive an Account of your Welfare from your own hand, your Mother was apprehensive lest even that might not have been too much trouble for you in your present Condition. She was glad to hear that you had got so far clear of your Sore Breasts & the Weed, but she wishes to hear from you again for the more security, as Relapses of these things are not uncommon. With regard to the Name of your Child, altho' what you propose, must be agreeable to her, yet she added in her hesitating Way, that if there was any other Name which you preferred, you might do so, but the Meaning of all this is, that she takes it kindly, & no more expected it, as I confess I did. We hope you will continue to take care of your health, as with regard to your Child, we think it would be needless to recommend Carefulness to you, as your own Affections will lead you to this, without any Recommendation on our part. Your Mother was much pleased with your wishing that she saw your Child, & I dare say wishes it as sincerely as you. It has been proposed that she & Mrs. Duncan should come up together next Spring, but this is at a Distance, We are glad to hear that Miss has recovered her health, your Mother leaves it to her Choice either to return before Winter, or when you can find it most convenient. No Doubt the Indian Summer is now over, & the Season is now so far advanced, that the Opportunity of proper Company for so long a Journey is not every day to be met with, & she is to take care of her health, & to refuse all Invitations to sleighing or going to the Country, & to stay with you all Winter. We are glad to hear that she & the Girls are servicable to you, & that you will be happy with them. Your Mother thinks she is sure that they will be excellent, & that the great Attention they shewed to every thing of which they took the Charge when here, We have no Occurrences of this Place to communicate, as the Papers would inform you of the Death of Mrs. Holmes at Baltimore. Her Children are to be sent to their Grand-mother here, Mr. Thornbury's Children are now sent to Baltimore, to which place their father removed some time ago. Tell Miss that one of Mr. M<sup>r</sup> Parquhar's Daughters is now at York with Mrs. Bowie, & that Miss Betsy Holmes went down on a Visit to Donnegal a few Days ago. Your Mother & I are in ordinary Health. Tom was here last Week at the Courts, but staid only four Days. The Boy that used to serve Mrs. Parquhar is now with us, & engaged to stay all Winter. Mrs. Wilson prevailed on your Mother to let her go along with Miss Holmes her Sister to Mr. M<sup>r</sup> Parquhar's, promising that he would remain in a few Days, as she has a Negro Girl to bring up from Mrs. Cook, and tho' this was very inconsiderable.

ment for us we were obliged to consent to it. We were somewhat uneasy to learn from the Report  
that your Garrison was to leave you, & to proceed to Head Quarters. We hope that this is not true,  
or at least that a Part of the Troops will be left for the Defence of your Place during the Winter,  
though ~~Sagoy~~ Winter will, be your best Defence. We read with much Concern of the Mischief -  
that the Indians are doing to the Southward, & hope that some Steps may be put to it, as other-  
wise their Success might be an Encouragement to the more Northern Indians. We were sorry that  
Miss Grant - Mrs. Addison's Sister did not call here when she passed thro' this Place; she brought  
me a letter from Capt. Ritchie at Philadelphia, but the Gentleman who conducted her being  
in haste, she did not call here. The letter was delivered by Mr. Bowie, who did not bring  
his Wife along with him to this Court, as we once expected, Mrs. Bowie brought over Mr.  
Thompson's Memoirs of his own life, which are quite characteristic, & contain a faithful  
Description of the Extravagancies of the Author. Your Mother has read them over with very  
great Attention, & Mr. Bowie left them with us. He is now in Edinburgh, in a State that  
differs little from Exile, having nothing to live on except the Sale of his Memoirs. Your  
Mother has rec'd a letter from your acquaintance Mrs. Tod at Long Island, whom  
you will remember to have seen at Princeton. She is well, & desires your Mother to write her,  
& that she had been at Greenock, to see her Aunt, came over in the same Ship  
with Mrs. Bowie in five Weeks & three Days. Her Mother had not seen her when she wrote  
her letter, but only heard of her Arrival. We have had no letters from Scotland since we  
wrote you, tho' we expected sundry long ago. If we should receive any, we will inform you  
of the contents. Tell Alison that the eldest Miss Chamber was married to Mr. Kelfe at the  
River two or three Days ago. Let us hear from you soon. Remember us to Mr. Turnbull  
& all friends with you. We shall omit no Opportunity of letting you hear of our Welfare.

Dear Mary, your affectionate Father,

Chas. Willket.

Carlisle, 10th Nov.r 1792.

Dear Mary,

We received yours of the 2d cur.t & though we were glad to receive an Account of your Welfare from your own hand, your Mother was apprehensive lest even that might not have been too much trouble for you in your present Condition. She was glad to hear that you had got so far clear of your sore Breath & the Weed, but she wishes to hear from you again for the more security, as Relapses of those things are not uncommon. With Regard to the Name of your Child, altho' what you propose, must be agreeable to her, yet she added in her hesitating Way, that if there was any other Name which you preferred, you might do so; but the Meaning of all this is that she takes it kindly, & no doubt expected it, - as I confess I did. We hope you will continue to take Care of your health, as with Regard to your Child, we think it would be needless to recommend Carefulness to you, as your own Affections will lead you to this, without any Recommendation on our part. Your Mother was much pleased with your wishing that she saw your Child, & I dare say wishes it as sincerely as you. It has been proposed that she and Mrs. Duncan should come up together next Spring, but this is at a Distance. We are glad to hear that Alison has recovered her health. Your Mother leaves it to her Choice either to return before Winter or not, as you and she find it most convenient. No doubt the Indian Summer is now over, & the [*Two words illegible*] about breaking, & Opportunity of proper Company for so long a Journey is not every day to met with [*Three words illegible*] Need to take Care of her health, & to refuse all Invitations to sleighing or going on the [*Two words illegible*] stays with you all Winter. We are glad to hear that she & the Girls are serviceable to you & hope that you will be happy with them. Your Mother thinks she is sure that they will be excellent Nurses from the great attention they showed to every thing of which they took the Charge when here. We have no Occurrences of this Place to communicate, as the Papers would inform you of the Death of Mrs. Holmes at Baltimore. Her Children are to be sent to their Grand-mother here. Mr. Thornbury's Children are now sent to Baltimore to which place their father removed some time ago. Tell Alison that one of Mr. McFarquhar's Daughters is now at York with Mrs. Bowie, and that Miss Betsey Holmes went down on a Visit to Donnegal a few Days ago. Your Mother and I are in ordinary Health. Tom was here last Week at the Courts, but staid only four Days. The Boy that used to serve Mr. Parker is now with us, & engaged to stay all Winter. Mrs. Wilson prevailed on your Mother to let us go along with Miss Holmes her Sister to Mr. McFarquhar's, promising that he would return in a few Days as she has a Negro Girl to bring up from Mrs. Cook. And tho' this was very inconve-

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nient for us, we were obliged to consent to it. We were somewhat uneasy to learn from the Papers that your Garrison was to leave you, & to proceed to Head Quarters. We hope that this is not true, or at least that a part of the Troops will be left for the Defence of your Place during the Winter. Perhaps Winter will be your best Defence. We read with much Concern of the Mischief that the Indians are doing to the Southward, & hope that some Stop may be put to it, as otherwise their Success might be an Encouragement to the more Northern Indians. We were sorry that Miss Grant, Mrs. Addison's sister did not call here when she passed thro' this Place. She brought me a Letter from Capt. Ritchie at Philadelphia, but the Gentleman who conducted her

being in haste, she did not call here. The Letter was delivered by Mr. Bowie, who did not bring his wife along with him to this Court, as we expected. Mr. Bowie brought over Mr. Thomson's Memoirs of his own Life, which are quite characteristic, & contain a faithful Description of the Extravagancies of the Author. Your Mother has read them over with very great Attention, & Mr. Bowie left them with us. He is now in Edinburgh, in a State that differs little from Begging, having nothing to live on except the Sale of his Memoirs. Your Mother has had a Letter from your Acquaintance Mrs. Tod at Long Island, whom you will remember to have seen at Princeton. She is well & desires your Mother to write her. A Daughter [*Two words illegible*] who had been at Greenock to see her Aunts, came over in the same ship with Mrs. Bowie, in five Weeks & three Days. Her Mother had not seen her when she wrote her Letter, but only heard of her Arrival. We have had no Letters from Scotland since we wrote you, tho' we expected sundry long ago. If we should receive any, we will inform you of the contents. Tell Alison that the oldest Miss Chambers was married to Mr. Kelso at the River two or three Days ago. Let us hear from you soon. Remember us to Mr. Turnbull & all friends with you. We shall omit no Opportunity of letting you hear of our Welfare. I ever am,

Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet.

Carlisle, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1792.

Dear Mary,

Having already answered yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> cur! on Saturday last, I should not have had any occasion to write you at present, but finding that Mr. McKeahan was going to your Place your Mother thought proper to give him the trouble of carrying a Couple of Frocks for your Child, the best that could be got here. Having likewise been making some Quilts for her Tea-Kettle, she has put up one for you. We shall be happy to hear of the Continuance of your good Health, as we got no Letter by last Post, but as Mrs. Mahon wrote her Mother of Alison's Wellfare, without saying any thing of you, we hoped that you were continuing well. Mrs. Thomson is to leave this Place on Monday, to proceed by way of your Place to Kentucky. The Papers will have informed you of the Death of Mrs. McCosky on Monday last. She died of a Disorder in her Stomach, which began with a violent Vomiting, tho' with Intervals. In the Beginning of last Week she was supposed to be recovering, but the Disturb returning, she was soon carried off. I called for the Doctor this Day, who is very disconsolate. Mr. McKeahan proposes to settle at Greensburgh, but comes first to see your Place. Tell Alison that Miss Holmes has returned from Mr. McFarguhar's & informed us that Miss Nancy had staid eight Days at York with Mrs. Bowie & was returned. Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. McCosky's Wife, was lately delivered of a Daughter, but being confined on that account, was not able to see her Aunt during her Sickness. Nothing has occurred with Relation to any other of her Acquaintances. I hope Alison gives you Content by assisting you in your household Affairs, & by keeping at home. She ought not to make many Visits. Tell Mr. Turnbull that I thought to have heard from him, but begin to apprehend that either the Drought has dried up his Ink, or that his Pen is not in Bluff, any more than his furnace & Distillery. The Speech of the President passes slightly over the Disobedience that has been given to the Excise Law, & the ill Success of our Negotiation with the Indians. I wish that the Troops may not be wholly removed from you, while the State of Affairs betwixt us & the Indians is so threatening. We hope you take Care of your Health, & do not expect to be strong all at once. The Weather begins to set in cold, with hoar-frosts in the Morning, tho' it is still dry, & the Air is mild in the Middle of the Day. We have at last got a good

shower, but our Wells here are shallow & Muddy, on Account of the long Drought.  
Your Mother desires me to acquaint you that the Muslin she sent you had been a  
little stained with Mud, but she chose to take that Piece that was stained, rather than  
the End of the Web. When you hear of any Person coming this Way, we expect that  
you will take the Opportunity of writing us, or make Alison write when you are  
not at leisure. We will endeavour to do the same when we hear of any body going  
to Pittsburgh. When we get any Letter from Scotland, we will not neglect to in-  
form you of the Contents. Your Mother is always very busy & does not weary,  
tho' very few People ever call here, since Alison left us. I go as seldom out as  
I used to do, & your Mother never goes out except to Church, or when she has  
necessary Business in the Town. We expect a hard Winter, & from the coldness  
of the Air it is probable that it will be early. We hope you have now got your  
House sufficiently prepared for the bad Weather, & that you will be secure from  
the Indians. Let us hear from you by every Opportunity. I am,

Dear Mary,

Your affectionate Father,

Cha.<sup>s</sup> Aistel.



Carlisle, Nov.r 15th. 1792.

Dear Mary,

Having already answered yours of the 2d cur.t on Saturday last, I should not have had any Occasion to write you at presents but finding that Mr. McKeehan was going to your Place your Mother thought proper to give him the Trouble of carrying a Couple of Frocks for your Child, the best that could be got here. Having likewise been making some Quills for her Tea-Kettle, she has put up one for you. We shall be happy to hear of the Continuance of your good Health, as we got no Letter by last Post, but as Mrs. Mahon wrote her Mother of Alison's Welfare, without saying any thing of you, we hoped that you, were continuing well. Mrs. Thomson is to leave this Place on Monday to proceed by way of your State to Kentucky. The Papers will have informed you of the Death of Mrs. McCoskry on Monday last. She died of a Disorder of the Stomach, which began with a violent Vomiting, tho' with Intervals. In the Beginning of last Week she was supposed to be recovering, but the Disease returning, she was soon carried off. I called for the Doctor this Day, who in very Disconsolate. Mr. McKeehan proposes to settle at Greensburgh, but comes first to see your Place. Tell Alison that Miss Holmes has returned from Mr. McFarquhar's & informed us that Miss Nancy had staid eight Days at York with Mrs. Bowie & was returned. Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. McCoskry's Niece was lately delivered of a Daughter, but being confined on that Account, was not able to see her Aunt during her sickness. Nothing has occurred with Relation to any other of her Acquaintances. I hope Alison gives you content by assisting you in your household Affairs & by keeping at home. She ought not to make many Visits. Tell Mr. Turnbull that I thought to have heard from him, but begin to apprehend that either the Drought has dried up his Ink, or that his Pen is not in Blast, any more than his furnace & Distillery. The Speech of the President passes slightly over the Disobedience that has been given to the Excise Law, & the ill Success of our Negotiation with the Indians. I wish that the Troops may not be wholly removed from you, while the State of Affairs betwixt us and the Indians in so threatening. We hope you take Care of your Health & do not expect to be strong all at once. The Weather begins to set in cold, with hoar-frosts in the Morning, tho' it is still dry, & the Air is mild in the Middle of the Day. We have at last got a good

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Shower, but our Wells are shallow & Muddy, on Account of the long Drought. Your Mother desires me to acquaint you that the Muslin she sent you had been a little stained with Mud, but she chose to take that Piece that was stained rather than the End of the Web. When you hear of any Person coming this Way, we expect that you will take the Opportunity of writing us, or make Alison write when you are not at Leisure. We will endeavor to do the same when we hear of any body going to Pittsburgh. When we get any Letters from Scotland, we will not neglect to inform you of the Contents. Your Mother is always very busy & does not weary, tho' very few People ever call here, since Alison left us. I go as seldom out as I used to do, & your Mother never goes out except to Church, or when she has necessary Business in the Town. We expect a hard Winter, & from the Coldness of the Air it is probable that it will be early. We hope you have now got your House sufficiently prepared for the bad Weather, & that you will be secure from the Indians. Let us hear from you by every Opportunity. I am,

Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1793.

I received yours of the 7<sup>th</sup> cur.<sup>l</sup> by Mr. Christie this Day. It was delivered in my Absence to your Mother. I returned only this Afternoon from Dr. McNaughton's, to which I went on Saturday last, & took your Brother along with me. It gives me Pleasure to hear that you & your Child are in good Health, but I am uneasy to hear of your fears of the Savages. You know my Anxiety for your Welfare and the Tranquillity of your Mind, & that it will not be in my Power to be easy, while I have reason to think that you are in Danger. I am sure I shall suffer more ~~from~~ this, than if you were all to stay here till the Conclusion of the Disturbances of the Indians. Mr. Turnbull surely can not be happy unless you are not only in Safety, but convinced that you are so. If you were put into a Waggon & conveyed to Bedford, I charge my self with all the Consequences afterwards, & to get you returned when it will be prudent for you to return. I know your Neighbours will be telling you that they are in perfect Safety, but if you can not trust their Assurances, it is surely best for you to come away as soon as possible. It can be no Trouble to us to have you here, in Comparison with the constant Threats & unspeakeable Anxiety that we must feel in thinking that you are in Alarm & Danger, while you are here in Safety. I wrote you by Post of your Sister's safe Arrival. She continues well, as we are all at present. We had a Letter from Mr. Wells, dated 22<sup>d</sup> January, informing us that all our Relations were well, except your Aunt at Stanhope, who is afflicted with a Dropsy which came suddenly upon her, after she had suffered most severely by a Vomiting & Purging of Blood. She has been once tapped, & endured that Operation with great fortitude, notwithstanding the exhausted State of her Body, & is not even afraid of a Repetition of it, which Mr. Wells says will be soon necessary. He does not say what Expectations the Physicians had of her Cure. All is quiet now in Scotland, tho' a Spirit of Mobbing & Sedition had shown it self lately, but as it appeared by the Addresses of those who are content with Government & abhor a French Revolution, that the seditious were only the Dregs of the People, & that every Person of Consequence, Character & Property are on the Side of Government, & resolved to support the British Constitution, the Mobbing Party are obliged to be quiet, & are now prevented from corresponding with the French Mob. I had

a Letter by the same Sachet from Dr. Keith of Morpeth, dated Feb. 2<sup>d</sup> which gives the very same Account of the State of England, as the other does of that of Scotland. The hearty and numerous addresses of all Ranks in every Quarter of the Kingdom in Support of Government, has silenced the seditious, by exposing their Insignificance. We have not heard of the Waggoner who is to bring your Sister's Trunk, but will enquire for him & pay him, tho' I own I would be as glad to pay for your Trunk & yourself, that your Mind might be in Quiet, & that we might be certain of your Safety, by having you here with us. Mrs. Blaine was buried this Afternoon. She had a Miscarriage which brought on a Disflux from which she never recovered. It was a venous fever with Mystical Symptoms. The Departure of her Husband affected her very much. I do not wonder that Mr. Turnbull is at a loss about going to Philadelphia. He should not think of it unless he brings you here in the mean time, Your fears would be redoubled by his Absence, & what Mr. Addison mentions of the Indians on the Frontier of Virginia must make your People very uneasy. Let us hear of you frequently, but we would be much happier to see you. <sup>\*</sup> I ever am,

Dear Mary,

your affectionate Father,

Cha.<sup>s</sup> Nisbet.

Carlisle, 16th April, 1793.

Dear Mary,

I received yours of the 7th by Mr. Christie this Day. It was delivered in my Absence to your Mother. I returned only this Afternoon from Dr. McNaughton's, to which I went on Saturday last, & took your Brother along with me. It gives me Pleasure to hear that you & your Child are in good health, but I am uneasy to hear of your fears of the Savages. You know my Anxiety for your Welfare and the Tranquillity of your Mind & that it will not be in My Power to be easy, while I have reason to think that you are in Danger. I am sure I shall suffer more from this, than if you were all to stay here till the Conclusion of the Disturbances of the Indians. Mr. Turnbull surely can not be happy unless you are not only in Safety, but convinced that you are so. If you were put into a Waggon & conveyed to Bedford, I charge my self with all the Consequences afterwards, & to get you returned when it will be prudent for you to return. I know your Neighbours will be telling you that they are in perfect Safety, but if you can not trust their Assurances, it is surely best for you to come away as soon as possible. It can be no Trouble to us to have you here, in Comparison with the constant Uneasiness & unspeakable Anxiety that we must feel in thinking that you are in Alarm & Danger, while we are here in Safety. I wrote you by Post of your Sister's safe arrival. She continues well, as we are all at present. We had a Letter from Mr. Welsh, dated 22d January, informing us that all our relations were well, except your Aunt at Stanhope, who is afflicted with a Dropsy which came suddenly upon her, after she had suffered most severely by a vomiting & Purging of Blood. She has been once tapped, & endured that Operation with great fortitude, notwithstanding the exhausted State of her Body & is not even afraid of a Repetition of it, which Mr. Welsh says will be soon necessary. He does not say what expectation the Physician had of her Cure. All is quiet now in Scotland, tho' a Spirit of Mobbing & Sedition had thrown itself lately, but as it appeared by the addresses of those who are content with Government & abhor a French Revolution, that the seditious were only the Dregs of the People, & that every Person of Consequence, Character & Property are on the Side of Government, & resolved to support the British Constitution, the Mobbing Party are obliged to be quiet, & are now prevented from corresponding with the French Mob. I had

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very uneasy. Let us hear of you frequently, but we would be much happier to see you. I ever  
am,

Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1793.

I wrote you lately by Mr. Blaine, who, I hope, arrived in Safety. But finding the Bearer Mr. Smith returning to Pittsburgh, I take the opportunity of informing you that your Mother continues to mend, & is now able to walk up & down Stairs. Her Appetite for food is better, than it used to be in her ordinary Health, but she must take Care of herself for some time before she recover any considerable Degree of Strength. We can not tell what to make of the Accounts from Philadelphia. The Papers say that universal Health prevails, which is not credible. I believe the People of Philadelphia tell many Lies, to encourage those to return, who have left the City, & to entice the People in the Country to trade with them. We do not yet hear when or whether Genl. Irvine's family intend to move, but we are much distressed in our present Quarters. Your Mother has a tolerably warm Room, but I have no other Place to write in, & am writing amidst a Number of confused Noises. I have recovered a great Part of my hearing since the Change of the Weather, & my Nerves are now so irritable, that I am disturbed by the most common Noises. We have indeed a noisy House & hear nothing from Morning to Night, but Dogs fighting, People killing Swine, Cows lowing, &c. The most quiet Neighbours we have are the Waggoners passing, tho' they rarely pass without Noise. I am afraid that our People will open their Correspondence with Philadelphia too soon, but there is no body to prevent them from doing any thing that comes in their Heads. I am afraid of hearing bad News of General Wayne & the Army, as it seems the Kentucky Militia are averse to assist him. Major Butler has taken Possession of the House we lately occupied at the Works, but we have our Hay & my Books there still, till we can be accommodated in a House. It is but a few Days since

we got up our Mortar, & we can not remove our May as yet, because Mr. Duncan has killed the May lost belonging to this House, with Wheat, & we must wait till it is threshed out. Our Students are not yet returned, & I fear that the Report that was spread, of the Philadelphia Fever's being in this Place, has prevented their Return. I hope that your Place continues to be healthful, & that you will take Care not to buy any Philadelphia Goods & not to go into the Shops where they are sold. I have never been able to hear any thing of Mr. Lake & his Family, & know not whether they are dead of the infectious fever, or still alive. I know of no body to whom I could write, to enquire whether he or Capt. Richie or Col. Gurney are still alive. I will be obliged to send my first letters for Scotland by the Way of Baltimore, but am at a loss for a Correspondent there, to whose Care I might send them. I am still afraid that the Philadelphia Disorder is either not ceased, or may break out again next Spring, & we hear that the Legislature of the State of Delaware adjourned their Meeting, for fear of receiving the Infection. It is uncertain where the Congress & the Legislature of this State may meet this Season, but their Meetings are of very little Importance. It is probable that the Congress may go to New York, & the State Legislature to Lancaster, as they will not think of coming to Harrisburgh, on Account of the great Sickness that has prevailed there this Season. Your Sister is going about, & your Brother's Ague seems to have left him for a time. We have had heavy Rains, & at present the Weather is clear & frosty. Agues & fevers have almost ceased, tho' there are always some dying among us. I am afraid that General Irvine will not arrive till Christmas or later. It will be an Inconvenience to me



to want my Books, especially to have them in a House that is inhabited,  
as Major Butler has a bound Boy who is a notorious Thief. But our  
Removal must occasion great Inconveniencies, & some Loss. We have no  
News here. The Disorder at Philadelphia has ingrossed all our Attention  
& Conversation. I expect no Letters almost from the Old Country till the  
Spring. I send you all that was material in those which I received, in my  
last. Remember us to all Friends & let us hear from you by every Op-  
portunity. I ever am,

Dear Mary,

Your affectionate Father,

Cha<sup>s</sup> Nisbet.

Carlisle, 8th Nov.r, 1793.

Dear Mary,

I wrote you lately by Mr. Blaine, who, I hope, arrived in Safety, But finding the Bearer Mr. Smith returning to Pittsburgh, I take the Opportunity of informing you that your Mother continues to mend, & is now able to walk up & down Stairs. Her appetite for food is better, than it used to be in her ordinary Health, but she must take Care of herself for some time before she recovers any considerable Degree of Strength. We can not tell what to make of the Accounts from Philadelphia. The Papers say that universal Health prevails, which is not credible. I believe the People of Philadelphia tell many lies, to encourage those to return, who have left the City, & to entice the People in the Country to trade with them. We do not yet hear when or whether Gen.l Irvine's family intend to move, but we are much straitened in our present Quarters. Your Mother has a tolerably warm Room, but I have no other Place to write in, & am writing amidst a number of confused Noises. I have recovered a great Part of my hearing since the change of the Weather, & my Nerves are now so irritable, that I am disturbed by the most common Noises. We have indeed a noisy House & hear nothing from Morning to Night, but Dogs fighting, People killing Swine, Cows lowing, Etc. The most quiet Neighbours we have are the Waggoners passing, tho' they rarely pass without Noise. I am afraid that our People will open their Correspondence with Philadelphia too soon, but there is no body to prevent them from doing any thing that comes in their Heads. I am afraid of hearing bad News of General Wayne & the Army, as it seems the Kentucky Militia are averse to assist him. Major Butler has taken Possession of the House we lately occupied at the Works, but we have our Hay & my Books there still, till we can be accommodated in a House. It is but a few Days since

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we got up our Horses, & we can not remove our Hay as yet, because Mr. Duncan has filled the Hay Loft belonging to this House, with Wheat, & we must wait till it is threshed out. Our students are not yet returned, & I fear that the Report that was spread of the Philadelphia Fever's being in this Place, has prevented their Return. I hope that your Place continues to be healthful, & that you will take care not to buy any Philadelphia Goods & not to go into the Shops where they are sold. I have never been able to hear any thing of Mr. Lake & his Family & know not whether they are dead of the infectious fever, or still alive. I know of no body to whom I could write, to inquire whether he or Capt. Richie or Col. Gurney are still alive. I will be obliged to send my first Letters for Scotland by the Way of Baltimore, but am at a Loss for a Correspondent there, to whose Care I might send them. I am still afraid that the Philadelphia Disorder is either not ceased, or may break out again next Spring, & we hear that the Legislature of the State of Delaware adjourned their Meeting, for fear of receiving the Infection. It is uncertain where the Congress & the Legislature of this State may meet this Season, but their Meetings are of very little importance. It is probable that the Congress may go to New York, & the State Legislature to Lancaster, as they will not think of coming to Harrisburgh, on Account of the great Sickness that has prevailed there this Season. Your Sister is going about, & your Brother's Ague seems to have left him for a time. We have had heavy Rains & at present the Weather is clear & frosty. Agues & fevers have almost ceased, tho' there are always some dying among us. I am afraid that General Irvine will not remove till Christmas or later. It will be an Inconvenience to me

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1798.

I hope you received my Last, inclosed in your Brother's by Mr. Davidson. I am concerned for your Situation, but have some Hopes that Times will grow better, tho' probably not much this Year. If our Vessels could go to Sea with Safety, Trade would revive. But of this there is little Prospect at present. I hope you have recovered your health, & that you endeavour to keep up your Spirits as well as you can. Let me know how the Children take with the City, & whether they retain any Remembrance of this Place. I hope the Weather will be more mild in a short time: that you may need less Wood for firing. You are entered on a new Scene, & in Circumstances of great Disadvantage. Take Care of yourself, & do not lay yourself open to any Body. Hear patiently what every body says, & make no Remarks. You are among a very divided People, but it is not necessary that you should take any Part in their Divisions. It may sometimes be difficult for you to hold your Peace, but it is practicable, if you make a strong Resolution. Be sparing in making Visits, or even occasional Calls. Mind your Household Affairs, & study Oeconomy as much as possible. Buy as little as you can, & learn to do without many things which others may reckon necessary. Debt is the Ruin of Citizens. Keep always at as great a Distance from that, as you can. Beware of making Enemies by selling your Mind too freely. It is not necessary that every Body should know what you think, & it is of little Importance to you what they think. Be assured that every Body is fond of their own Opinions, & let them re-

tain & defend them till they are wearied. but give yourself no Trouble -  
about them. Mankind, by which I principally mean Womankind, are  
always Enemies to those who endeavour to instruct them, or try to set  
them right; but Friends to those who flatter them, or let them alone.  
I do not desire you to flatter them, but by all means let them alone, &  
you will see no worse for it. By making it a Rule to be silent, at least  
lets you know when you see, they will learn to expect no Observations  
from you, & soon will give you less Trouble. Even with Regard to Reli-  
gion & Morals you may probably hear a great Deal of senseless Conver-  
sation, as many make it a Rule to talk of these things, though they  
know nothing at all about them. Do you endeavour to know as much, &  
to talk as little as possible, lest you should have the Misfortune of  
talking to People about what they do not understand. In mixed -  
Company it is better to beware of giving Offence, than to endeavour  
to please, & the less that you say in such Companies, it will be the better  
for you. You will always find People that are fond enough of talking.  
Give them no Interruption, but let them talk away. They will be  
pleas'd while you are content to hear them, & it is not necessary that  
you should even let them know that you understand them. Avoid  
asking Questions, or desiring People to explain their Stories or Opi-  
nions. This gives Offence. But it is no Matter in most Cases, whether  
you understand them or not. By endeavouring to please, we often  
give Offence. Remember that People love a patient Hearer,  
much better than a ready Speaker. If you seem to attend to

them, that will be enough in most Cases, & you ought to seem to at-  
tend to them, tho' you have no hope, or desire, to understand them.  
The most of Mankind, especially Females, love to hear themselves talk,  
but are impatient of Interruption, & the easiest Way of dealing with  
them is to let them have their Will, & to suffer them to talk till they  
are weary. Beware of giving Character of others, or of making any ob-  
jections on those who do. Never talk of yourself nor of your Country or  
your Relations to those who know nothing of them, & beware of ingross-  
ing the Conversation. Make no Entertainments to Members of Congress or  
others, altho' Citizen Motive & the Lyon should inform you  
that they intend to do you the honour of dining with you. A-  
void with equal Care the Dinners that are given by others,  
as those who receive, will be expected to give. Keep mostly  
at home, & receive those who call on you with Civility, with-  
out Ceremony or Anxiety to please or to appear respectable.  
Abhor French Fashions & Vanities of Dress. Study neatness & Econo-  
my, & let any that pleases, imitate the Actresses & Dressewomen  
of Paris. Let me hear from you as often as possible. Be

kindly to Mr. Turnbull & the Children. I am,

P. S.

Dear Mary  
Your Mother thought that you had too  
mean an Opinion of her Patience, when your affectionate Father,  
you say that she would have gone distracted, if ~~she~~ <sup>you</sup> were in ~~her~~ <sup>your</sup> Situation, & wishes that you  
may behave better than she could have done.

Cha. Nisbet.

Carlisle, 7th March, 1798.

Dear Mary,

I hope you received my last, inclosed in your Brother's by Mr. Davidson. I am concerned for your Situation, but have some Hopes that times will grow better, tho' probably not much this year. If our Vessels could go to Sea with Safety, Trade would revive. But of this there is little Prospect at present. I hope you have recovered your health, & that you endeavour to keep up your spirits as well as you can. Let me know how the Children take with the City, & whether they retain any Remembrance of this Place. I hope the Weather will be more mild in a short time that you may need less Wood for firing. You are entered on a new Scene, & in Circumstances of great Disadvantage. Take Care of yourself, & do not lay yourself open to any Body. Hear patiently what every body says, & make no Remarks. You are among a very divided People, but it is not necessary that you should take any Part in their Divisions. It may sometimes be difficult for you to hold your Peace, but it is practicable, if you make a Strong Resolution. Be sparing in making Visits, or even occasional Calls. Mind your Household Affairs, & study Oeconomy as much as possible. Buy as little as you can, & learn to do without many things which others may reckon necessary. Debt is the Ruin of Citizens. Keep always at as great a Distance from that, as you can. Beware of making Enemies by telling your Mind too freely. It is not necessary that every Body should know what you think, & it is of little Importance to you what they think. Be ensured that every Body is fond of their own Opinions, & let them re-

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Cha.s Nisbet.

P.S. Your Mother thought that you had too mean an Opinion of her Patience, when you say that she would have gone distracted, if she were in ~~her~~ your situation, & wishes that you may behave better than she could have done.

C.N.



Dear Mary,

Carlisle, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1799.

I have nothing of Consequence to write you, but could not think of letting Mr Marshall depart without a few Lines for you. I hope you received my last by Dr. McCloskey, & that he & your Sister will soon return to this Place. I inclose a Letter to your Cousin Caroline Wells, in Answer to hers which I sent you by Abijon. She hopes that a Letter from you was on the Way when she wrote, but I am afraid that is not the Case. I have writ her that I hoped that a Letter from you would accompany the one which I enclose. I hope you will find time for it, now that your Child is well, & Mr. Turnbull will give you a Mode of Conveyance. I have given her your Address, & she will certainly writ you, but I think you ought to begin. Your Mother is better than she was last Week, but she is no sooner well, than she continues to get ill again, by Abstinence & immoderate Exercise. I propose setting out for York by to morrow's Stage, unless she stop me again by another fit of her Illness. The Weather is still cold, & there was Ice upon the Waters this Morning. The Druggal ~~is~~ still continues, & almost every thing in the Gardens is killed. The Wheat Crop is in a poor State, & we seem to be threatened with a famine. Dr. Smith of Osnedown & his Daughter left this Place this Morning on their way to Winchester. I have had no Letters from Scotland since your Cousin's, which your Sister would show you, but I expect to receive a Packet at York, which Mr. Bowie informs me has been brought by Dr. McNight from New York last Week. Mr. Turnbull will take Care to forward the two Scotch Letters inclosed, with one from yourself, by first opportunity. I was glad to hear by Dr. Smith that

your City is still healthy, tho' you will not be without your fears, when  
the warm Weather sets in. We shall expect to hear from you by every Op-  
portunity that occurs, & I shall be equally attentive on my Side. I  
am afraid that you will take little Notice of Annie & Betsy, now that you  
have got another Child. I hope they are attending School & doing well. It  
is probable that the Election of Judge McKean will suspend almost every  
kind of Business in your City till October next, & if the present Drought con-  
tinues, the People in the Country will have Leisure enough to mind their  
Politics, as it is not likely that they will have much to do in Harvest. -  
The Hessian Fly has begun to attack the Rye, which threatens us with  
a Famine of Whisky. And if this is taken away, what have we more?  
Whisky is the Sinews of Politics, & the Fountain of Republican Zeal,  
Insurrection & Patriotism. Your Mother wishes to have some Wires for  
the Stair-Cloth. It has seventeen Steps. If such a thing can be got easily  
they may be sent by Sixth Waggon, & we will pay you when we get Money.  
Remember us kindly to Mr. Turnbull & your Family. I remain,

Dear Mary.

Your affectionate Father,

Cha. Nisbet.

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Carlisle, May 13th, 1799.

Dear Mary,

I have nothing of Consequence to write you, but could not think of letting Mr. Marshal depart without a few lines for you. I hope you received my last by Dr. McCoskery, & that he & your Sister will soon return to this Place. I inclose a Letter to your Cousin Caroline Welsh, in answer to hers which I sent you by Alison. She hopes that a Letter from you soon on the way when she wrote, but I am afraid that is not the Case. I have writ her that I hoped that a Letter from you would accompany the one which I enclose. I hope you will find time for it, now that your Child is well & Mr. Turnbull will give you a Mode of Conveyance. I have given her your Address, & she will certainly writ you, but I think you ought to begin. Your Mother is better than she was last Week, but she is no sooner well, than she contrives to get ill again, by Abstinence & immoderate Exercise. I propose setting out for York by tomorrow's Stage, unless she stop me again by another fit of her Illness. The Weather is Still cold, & there was Ice upon the Waters this Morning. The Drought still continues, & almost every thing in the Garden is killed. The Wheat Crop is in a poor State, & we seem to be threatened with a famine. Dr. Smith of Princeton & his Daughter left this Place this Morning on their way to Winchester. I have had no Letters from Scotland since your Cousin's, which your Sister would show you, but I expect to receive a Packet at York, which Mr. Bowie informs me has been brought by Dr. McNight from New York last week. Mr. Turnbull will take care to forward the two Scotch Letters inclosed, with one from yourself, by first Opportunity. I was glad to hear by Dr. Smith that

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Cha.s Nisbet.

Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1799.

Having heard of your Welfare by the Return of your Sister, & understanding that on this Day you were to remove to the Country with your Children, after writing Mr. Turnbull a Letter on Business, I wish'd to send you a few Lines at the same time, tho' I have not any thing of importance to write you. I made out my Bill to Mr. Bowie at York on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, paid there a Week, & went over to Mr. M<sup>o</sup> Farquhar's at Marston in a hired Carriage, with Mr. & Mrs. Bowie & their little Daughter. I staid there three Days, & after dining with Mr. & Mrs. Cooky returned to York, & came home in the Mail Stage on Monday last. Mr. M<sup>o</sup> Farquhar & his family was well, only Mr. Wilson had a bad Cold, & the Day that we left the Place, Mr. M<sup>o</sup> Farquhar was seized with violent Rheumatic Pains in his Back, which seem'd to be increasing, tho' he came & dined with us at Mr. Cook's, where we left him very ill. The Rains have done great Good here tho' attended with Cold Weather. Your Mother is much oblig'd to you for the Keg of Barley you sent her, as no such thing can be got here. I have writ Mr. Turnbull to send us our Account, that we may know how much we are in his Debt. Your Mother's new Gown is making, & she is very well pleas'd with it, as well as with the Linen & other Goods that you sent. Alison was much pleas'd with your Country Receipts which she had visited, but you must write me a more particular Account of your Situation, when you are settled in it. Are you within Reach of any Physician? Is Citizen Logan or Dr. Lail your near Neighbours? Are there any other Families from the City expected to settle near you? I wish to know every particular of your Situation & how you & your Children keep their Health. I shall be careful to write you by every Opportunity, & Mr. Turnbull will find a Conveyance for my Letters. And I hope you will not forget to write me, when you have any Conveyance to Philadelphia. You may likewise write me whether you are near any Place of Worship, tho' that is not commonly considered as a Convenience in this Country. Let me know likewise, what is the Face of the Country about you, Hill or Dale, thin or thick settled. Are you among the Germans, or within the Bounds of the insurgent Counties? I think I have cut you

out sufficient Materials for a Letter, but many more will readily occur. I hope that Trade is reviving in Philadelphia, & that it will not be visited by the fatal yellow Fever. We were disturb'd this Morning by a violent Knocking at our Door, betwixt two & three a' Clock, a Son of Mr. Oliver Pollock's wanted to get Alexander as his second in a Duel, occasioned by a Quarrel betwixt him & a Lieutenant M<sup>c</sup>Gaw from Chambersburgh. He did not go with him immediately, & I hope will never have any thing to do with this kind of Madnes, & I hear that Pollock has been seeking for Seconds among Dr. M<sup>c</sup>Clary's Students. I hope you carry out your Bible & some good Books with you, to employ you on Sabbath Days, & other times when you have Leisure. Has Mr. Turnbull got a Copy of Mr. Wilberforce's View of the Christian Religion? If he has not, I would advise him to buy one. He will see that a Member of the British House of Commons knows much more of true Religion, & possesses more excellent Qualities than either Gallatin or Nicolas, or even the famous Lyon of Vermont. You do not mention whether Jane or Molly goes out with you. I hope to hear that you are perfectly contented with your Situation, & well accommodated in your Summer Quarters. I hear that Mr. Turnbull is to visit you once a Week, so that your Letters will not be long detained, & you will have frequent Opportunities of writing. Your Mother has been in better health than usual for a fortnight past. Afsen & her Husband & Children are well. She proposes to write you by Mr. Douglass, theBearer of this. She & her Daughter dined with us this Day, as the Doctor is out of town, at a fishing Party. I hear that the Duellists I mentioned, met this Morning at Sun-rise, on the Commons, but Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Cornick & Mr. Lewis having got notice of their Intention got both to be apprehended by the Sheriff, & bound in a Recognizance with Sureties, not to prosecute their Quarrel, but having gone out again after Breakfast, the Sheriff again seized them & they were obliged to engage to compound their Quarrel in a friendly Manner. They afterwards dined together & have gone out to play at Ball, where it is expected the Quarrel would be revived. The offence indeed was of a very heinous Nature. They were pitching Dollars, & M<sup>c</sup>Gaw having pitched them at Pollock, instead of handing them, he immediately

challenged him to fight him. I ought to be ashamed to trouble you with such trifles, but such are the Occurrences of this bustling Place. When I was at Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Farquhar's I learned an Event that ought to put us all on our Guard against the Yellow fever, however far from the Sea we live. A rich German Farmer, in the Neighbourhood of Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Farquhar's old Place, for the sake of making a cheap Purchase, bought some feather Beds at an Auction in Philadelphia last fall, but lest they should be infected, he kept them in Lancaster till Christmas last, & then brought them home to his House. They were occupied without any Accident, till the Weather began to wax warm, when himself, his Wife, & three of his Children, were all seized with the yellow fever, & died, & two others still remain, whose life is despaired of. It seems that some Rascals in Philadelphia sold many infected Beds in New York, which produced a Warning in the Philadelphia Papers, against buying Beds from the Feather Merchants of New York, but it appears by the above unfortunate Instance, that infected Beds were sold at Philadelphia. I hope you will beware of making any Purchases of that kind for a long time, as you are so near the original Place of Infection. If the yellow fever should be brought into Philadelphia this Summer, as it undoubtedly will, if it is possible, I hope you will warn Mr. Turnbull to leave the Place on the first Alarm, that he may not bring Death along with him to himself & his family. It is time to be cautious, after three such awful Visitations as your City has already experienced. I hope Mr. Turnbull has forwarded my Letter to your Cousin Caroline Wells, accompanied by another from you, as I promised in my Letter to her. I informed her of the Alteration in your Address, on account of your Removal. Remember me to your dear Girls, & write me by every Opportunity. I remain,

Dear Mary, . . . your affectionate Father,

Chas. Kibbel.

Carlisle, 1st June, 1799.

Dear Mary,

Having heard of your Welfare by the Return of your Sister, & understanding that on this Day you were to remove to the Country with your Children, after writing Mr. Turnbull a Letter on Business, I wish'd to send you a few Lines at the same time, tho' I have not any thing of importance to write you. I made out my Visit to Mr. Bowie at York on the 15th May, staid there a Week, & went over to Mr. McFarquhar's at Maytown in a hired Carriage, with Mr. & Mrs. Bowie & their little Daughter. I staid there three Days, & after dining with Mr. & Mrs. Cooke, returned to York, & came home in the Mail Stage on Monday last. Mr. McFarquhar & his family were well, only Mr. Wilson had a bad Cold, & the Day that we left the Place, Mr. McFarquhar was seized with violent Rheumatic Pains in his Back, which seemed to be increasing, tho' he came & dined with us at Mr. Cook's where we left him very ill. The Rains have done great Good here, tho' attended with Cold Weather. Your Mother is much obliged to you for the Keg of Barley you sent her, as no such thing can be got here. I have writ Mr. Turnbull to send us our Account, that we may know how much we are in his Debt. Your Mother's new Gown is making & she is very well pleased with it, as well as with the Linen & other Goods that you sent. Alison was much pleased with your Country Retreat, which she had visited, but you must write me a more particular Account of your Situation, when you are settled in it. Are you within reach of any Physician? Is Citizen Logan or Dr. Leib your near Neighbours? Are there any other families from the City expected to settle near you? I wish to know every particular of your Situation & how you and your Children keep their Health. I shall be careful to write you by every Opportunity & Mr. Turnbull will find a conveyance for my Letters. And I hope you will not forget to write me, when you have any Conveyance to Philadelphia. You may likewise write me whether you are near any Place of Worship, tho' that is not commonly considered as a Convenience in this Country. Let me know likewise, what is the face of the Country about you, Hill or Vale, thin or thick settled. Are you among the Germans, or within the Bounds of the insurgent Counties? I think I have cut you

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Week, so that your Letters will not be long detained, & you will have frequent Opportunities of writing. Your Mother has been in better health than usual for a fortnight past. Alison & her Husband & Children are well. She proposes to write you by Mr. Douglas, the Bearer of this. She & her Daughter dined with us this Day, as the Doctor is out of town, at a fishing Party. I hear that the Duellists I mentioned, met this Morning at Sun-rise on the Commons, but Mr. McCormick & Mr. Lewis having got Notice of their Intention got both to be apprehended by the Sheriff, & bound in a Recognisance with Sureties, not to prosecute their Quarrel, but having gone out again after Breakfast, the Sheriff again seized them & they were obliged to engage to compound their Quarrel in a friendly Manner. They afterwards dined together & have gone out to play at Ball, where it is expected the Quarrel would be revived. The offence indeed was of a very heinous Nature. They were pitching Dollars, & McGaw having pitched them at Pollock, instead of handing them, he immediately

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Cha.s Nisbet.



Dear Mary,

Carlisle, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1799.

Altho' I expect your Brother here on Monday next, I could not suffer the Bearer Dr. Armstrong to depart without a few Lines for you. I hope that Susan has got better, your Brother having informed us that she had got a little cold. Your Mother & I are in ordinary health & have got one Week of Tranquillity, after one of great Disturbance. Money is scarce, & I am quite ashamed that we are not able to send Mr. Turnbull the Payment of his Account. I hope that Dr. McCoskey will be able to send him Lauffmann & Oliver's Money by the Bearer of this. We would wish that other People ~ should do well, when we can not do so ourselves. I was glad to hear by Alexander, that Business has become brisk, & hope that you will have your Share of it. We have now lost hopes of Molly coming up with your Brother, tho' we do not know the Reason. I hope that the City continues healthful, & that there are no Remains of the Yellow Fever among you. I have made an Apology for your not writing your Cousin Caroline, but hope that you will find time to do it soon. I am glad that Mr. Turnbull has taken Care of my foreign Letters, I inclose two more, for your Uncle & your Cousin. The Weather has become very cold & frosty, which I hope will be a Preservative to the health of your Citizens. I am afraid however that you do not find the Price of Wood & Provisions lowered by the Election of Citizen McKean, tho' his friends prophesied that this would be the Case. But the Removal of Government to Lancaster ought to have some Influence on your Markets, & if the Congress likewise shall remove in January next your Provisions ought to be still lower. I shall be glad to hear that the City is at last provided with wholesome Water,

tho' I wish it had been better than that of the Schreykfel. I hope that  
Betsey was well pleased with her Frock & her Book & that the Miss re-  
members us, tho' she was not here with her sister. I hope you will avoid  
visiting, especially in the suspected Parts of the City, & that your Children  
take Care to keep from Cold in going to & from School. This Plau produces  
no News. Your sister is in ordinary health, but Charles is not well, & is  
supposed to be breeding Teeth. Eliza continues healthy. We are promised some  
Money next Month, & it would give us great Pleasure to get out of Debt.  
We never know Debt till lately. I hope that you will get some time for reading  
this Winter, & that you will read something better than the common Trash  
of Novels, which are the most common Entertainment of Ladies, & render them  
at once selfish & unhappy. Let us hear from you by every Opportunity, &  
send us all the News of your City. The Absence of Citizen McKean must  
make a great Void among your Democrats, tho' Mr. Duane & Citizen  
Reynolds will do their utmost to support the Republican Interest among  
you. When I hear any thing from the old Country, it will be communicated  
to you. I hope you will be quite satisfied with your new Habitation,  
especially if Business & Gain increase, which I hope will be the Case soon.  
The Danger of being taken by French Privateers must increase the Dis-  
culties of your Trade for some time, but if the Allied Powers shall be able  
to drive the Directory from Paris, & to crush that Nest of Vipers which  
has so long plagued Europe & America, you would no longer be in Dan-  
ger from French Pirates abroad, nor from Republicans or Frenchified Ci-  
tizens at home, but the Animosity between the Parties must still be a  
considerable Grievance, & a great Diminution of private Happiness and

This is likely to continue for some time, or to be renewed & continued on other Principles. The great End of Government is to secure the private Happiness of the Citizens, but when a Party calls themselves exclusively "the Sovereign People, & value themselves on opposing every Measure of Government two hostile Powers are created in the same State, by the Conflicts & Opposition of which, private Happiness is almost extinguished. We can hardly expect in our Day to see any Degree of Concord or Unity restored in this Country, tho' we would certainly be safer if the French Republic were annihilated & Peace restored to Europe, which I hope will be the case in a short time. We are longing for News from Europe & expect to hear that some considerable Blow is struck before Winter. I get no News Papers. I suppose that Peter Corcoran has left the State on the Election of Citizen M'Kean, or that that powerful Citizen has forbid the Circulation of his Paper by the Post. I have therefore the more Need of receiving frequent Letters from my Friends. Let me hear from you by every Opportunity, as most of our restless People call at your House, except those who owe you Money. Your Mother has got me a Flannel Waist-coat from Mr. Douglas, so that you need not look out for Flannel. Alexander is arrived, & delivered his Commissions. Your Mother is pleased with her Bonnets, but the Tea was so ill packed, that much of it was lost. The Mustard came safe. Alison has got all her things. I am glad to hear that Susan is better. Remember us kindly to her & all the Family. Write me by the Return of Dr. Armstrong, & every other Opportunity. I ever am,

Dear Mary,  
your affectionate Father,  
Chas. Kistel.

Carlisle, 16th Nov.r 1799.

Dear Mary,

Altho' I expect your Brother home on Monday next, I could not suffer the Bearer Dr. Armstrong to depart without a few Lines for you. I hope that Susan has got better, your Brother having informed me that she had got a little Cold. Your Mother and I are in ordinary health & have got one Week of Tranquility, after one of great Disturbance. Money in scarce, & I am quite ashamed that we are not able to send Mr. Turnbull the Payment of his Account. I hope that Dr. McCoskry will be able to send him Laustmann & Oliver's Money by the Bearer of this. We would wish that other People should do well, when we can not do so ourselves. I was glad to hear by Alexander, that Business has become brisk, & hope that you will have your share of it. We have now lost hopes of Molly coming up with your Brother, tho' we do not know the Reason. I hope that the City continues healthful, & that there are no Remains of the Yellow Fever among you. I have made an Apology for your not writing your Cousin Caroline, but hope that you will find time to do it soon. I am glad that Mr. Turnbull has taken care of my foreign Letters. I inclose two more for your Uncle & your Cousin. The Weather has become very cold & frosty, which I hope will be a Preservative to the health of your Citizens. I am afraid however that you will not find the Price of Wood & Provisions lowered by the Election of Citizen McKean, tho' his friends prophesied that this would be the Case. But the Removal of Government to Lancaster ought to have some Influence on your Markets, & if the Congress likewise shall remove in January next your Provisions ought to be still lower. I shall be glad to hear that the City is at last provided with wholesome Water,

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tho' I wish it had been better than that of the Schuylkill. I hope that Betsey was well pleased with her Frock & her Book & that she still remembers us tho' she was not here with her Sister. I hope you will avoid visiting, especially in the suspected Parts of the City, & that your Children take Care to keep from Cold in going to & from School. This Place produces no News. Your Sister is in ordinary Health but Charles is not well, & is supposed to be brooding Teeth. Eliza continues healthy. We are promised some Money next Month, & it will give us great Pleasure to get out of Debt. We never knew Debt till lately. I hope that you will get some time for reading this Winter, & that you will read something better than the common Trash of Novels, which are the most common Entertainment of Ladies, and render them at once useless & unhappy. Let us hear from you by every Opportunity, & send us all the News of your City. The Absence of Citizen McKean must make a great Void among your Democrats tho' Mr. Duane and Citizen Reynolds will do their utmost to support the Republican Interest among you. When I hear any thing from the old Country, it will be communicated to you. I hope you will be quite satisfied with your new Habitation, especially if Business & Gain increase, which I hope will be the Case soon. The Danger of being taken by French Privateers must increase the Difficulties of your Trade for some time, but if the Allied Powers shall be able to drive the Directory from Paris & to crush that Nest of Vipers which has so long plagued Europe & America, you would no longer be in Danger from French Pirates abroad, nor from Republicans or Frenchified Citizens at homes but the Animosity between the Parties must still be a considerable Grievance, & a great Diminution of private Happiness and

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Dear Mary,  
Your affectionate Father,

Chas Nisbet.