



3-22-1793

## Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, March 22, 1793

John Newton

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J. Newton

London Twenty Three

March 18 93

Mr John Campbell

Grass Market  
Aberthornton Edinb. 9

Poor Gentleman! You say right - business must stand still (busy as I am) till I have expressed a sympathy for you) which, tho' I am an old man, I am in some respects well qualified to feel.

If this ~~letter~~ ~~has~~ been delayed for you (as you would had it been but for you upon the whole) you would have been led to take a different course, & to have put in a more early claim. When you next must write home, where you think will <sup>do</sup> you will probably take care to speak a word in your own behalf in good time.

But seriously - as I believe upon good authority, that the way of Man in general is not in himself, so I am equally persuaded that the steps of those who fear the Lord are secretly guided by him, & that when they mean well, but their are consequences depending (of which they are not aware) that might be inconvenient, he will mercifully interpose by what the world calls a disappointment, but which to believe is only an intimation of his will.

I take it for granted therefore, that however amiable & ~~the~~ ~~to~~ deserving of your good opinion the Lady in question may be, she was not the right person for you. And when you have recovered yourself from the ~~such~~ shock of the ~~banter~~ <sup>you</sup> you have met with, you will see that all is right, & that ~~there is~~ <sup>you</sup> no less reason than Aaron had - to hold your peace, or rather that you have cause to open your mouth in praise. The right person is yet to seek, & I hope in due time, the Lord will direct you where to find her.

I will now thank you for yours of the 4<sup>th</sup>. But I  
hope I am not responsible for your dreams. I certainly was  
not with you on the night you mentioned. And if I had, I  
should not have made the speech you heard from my Repre-  
sentative. What the Lord might possibly do, I partly know,  
what he may please to do I know not. But at present my  
thoughts are not so gloomy. His gospel is with us, yea in-  
creasing among us, & I trust there is a godly number, who  
are mourning over their own sins, & the sins of the Nation, &  
are standing in the breach by prayer. For this sake I  
hope Mercy will still be afforded. I rely more upon their  
prayer than upon all our fleets & armies. I thought I saw  
a wonderful interposition of Providence in our favour about  
the beginning of December. Since that <sup>time</sup> I have been in toler-  
able spirits. I thank you for Mr. Colquhoun, & beg you to give  
my love to him. Give likewise my affectionate respects to  
Miss Colchester & her family.

You are now freed from the embarrassment you had  
about Marriage & I hope you will soon be able to eat drink  
& sleep as usual. Read psalms. 3. 5, 6. every morning fasting  
with a short prayer. It is a good remedy against uneasy thoughts.  
Probatum est. The Christian Politicians are to be pitied, and  
I have more for me more than pity. May the Lord bless you  
in all things.

I am sincerely Yours John Newton

22 March 93.