

October 20th, 1797

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, October 20, 1797

John Newton

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Stirling
Oct 20 97

Mr John Campbell

Grave Market,
Edinburgh

J. No.



My dear Sir,

I hope this will be proceeded, by a full sheet which I sent last week & will cost you nothing. If ~~you~~ so, perhaps you will excuse me making you pay for once, for a sheet letter. I cannot depend upon a speedy frank, & the thing's business requires haste.

I have a letter signed David Erskine. The writer says he has seen a letter of mine ^(as I suppose) to Janet Ramsay & wishes me to write to him. He seems in great distress of mind, & perhaps I ~~ought~~ ought to notice it.

But he says he is the son of Doctor Erskine, but there is such a total want of Education visible in every line, & he appears so very ignorant of propriety, ^{as} that I should not expect from the son of such a Father I must therefore beg you, as he says you know him well, to give me a little bit of his history, that I may know how to write to him. If he had not mentioned Dr. Erskine's name, I should not have wondered so much — How could he spend his Childhood & Youth, to be so very illiterate?

He filed a sheet in a large hand, sealed & directed it, & then enclosed it in another sheet, which contained little more than a repetition of what he had written in the former. So that I paid double postage, without obtaining any new information for any money.

I have little news to add since my last. Your
Missionaries are gone. I was sorry I could not see
them again. But I can not only pray but hope for
them, as they will have the benefit of Mr. ^{Macaulay} ~~Clarke's~~
& Mr. Clarke's advised information, before they enter upon
their business. I could wish there were such men as
Mr. Macaulay & Clarke at Otaheite, ready to receive
our London Missionaries on their arrival.

I hope my next letter will be longer, & come
free. Excuse me this time.

With join in love
Yours indeed

John Newton

N. 6. 20 Oct. 97.

I acknowledge my debts to Mr. Buchanan
& Mr. Black. Beg them to have patience
with me, & I hope to pay them before long.