

September 2nd, 1793

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, September 2, 1793

John Newton

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.spu.edu/newton_campbell

Recommended Citation

Newton, John, "Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, September 2, 1793" (1793). *Newton/Campbell Letters*. 5.
https://digitalcommons.spu.edu/newton_campbell/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Digital Commons @ SPU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newton/Campbell Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ SPU.



1/11

London Fourth Sept 93



Mr J Campbell

Grave Market

Apothecary ^{Edin}

besides the
by the same

Dear Sir,

I thank you for providing for me in your retirement. Your anecdotes are both entertaining & instructive. Your letter follows me hither. Like you I highly value the Country. But I am better off in point of ordinances, & Christian conference than you were when on the Banks of the Tiber. The preaching of the Gospel is indeed a great privilege, which cannot be safely neglected while in our power, and wide out so long as we possess our spiritual senses. But if Sickness, or dear Providential calls of absence, detain us from it, we are not so absolutely dependant upon it, but that we may do well without it. Perhaps none of Davids Psalms, breathe a more sublime & spiritual strain of Devotion, than those which he wrote in the Wilderness. Such were the 42. 63 & perhaps the 84. The occasion of his writing the 51st happened at Jerusalem, when he was at the fountain head of public means. And I think my heart was never more warm & fired, than during my 2 last voyages to Africa, tho I was engaged in a Traffic, which I now see was unlawful & abominable. The Word of Grace, & the throne of Grace, are the two principal means, which can supply the want of all others, when not to be had - but without attending to these, the rest can yield but little solid benefit. I have met with happy lively believers who have had no opportunity of hearing the Gospel; & I have met with others, who like Pharaohs lean bene, devour a great deal of the but do not appear to thrive.

When you receive a parcel of the Letters to a wife. I beg you will transmit one copy in my Name, to Capt. Alexander Cunningham of Anstruther, & charge it my account, I shall find some way of paying - or perhaps I may have the pleasure of seeing you in London. My dear Mr. Newtons Sister, married his brother.

I think, if I was a Lawgiver, I would not make Robbery a Capital crime; & therefore I should be unwilling to prosecute for it. Many of our penal laws, by being too severe become too unwise; offenders are so often pardoned, that others are encouraged to offend, in hopes that the prescribed punishment will not be inflicted. The law of God requires Murder^{ers} to suffer death; & I think these other crimes, which by their effects might be fatal, that may be forbidden under the same penalty; such as House breaking in the Night - setting Houses on fire, in a street or town, perjury in criminal causes - & perhaps I might add, the stealing of a Child, which may be of dreadful consequence both to the child & to the parents, & yet I believe does not expose to worse punishment than the stealing of a dog. But as I have no hand in making laws, nor influence with the Legislature, I must be content to take things as I find them

them. I only give you my sentiments because you desire me. There is a verse in
D. Watts's little ~~book~~ book for children, which offers a good pattern to me who am in
my 69 years.

I'll not willingly offend, Nor be easily offended
What's amiss [in myself] I'll try to mend, And endeavor what ~~can't~~ can't be mended.
These principles I want to adopt in my Politics. I am thankful that the French
were checked in their mad design of fraternizing & plundering all the Nations far &
near. But had I the rule of ~~the~~ affairs, when I had copied them up within their own
boundaries, I would have left them to fight it out among themselves. But we are Ser-
ves also, & therefore what the Lord has permitted to take place, must be — & what he
has appointed to follow, must come. My heart aches for the principal issue. But as He
ordains over all, He can & he will, make all work for the glory of his name. And in
the meantime, he knows how to support, or to protect his own people. The Lord is
good a strong hold in the day of trouble, & He knoweth them that trust ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ him.
May we be found as those in Ezek. 9. 4. And his invisible Mark, will secure
us from all harm.

I have not properly men his use, when abroad, than when at home. For
besides the time taken up in moving from place to place, & in seeing & being seen
by old & new friends, I have generally a double quantity of letters to answer. But I
am willing to show, that I value your correspondence. If Mr. Lawson is in Eden
bush please to tell him, that I hope his turn is coming. I received his letter since
I left London, but I sent back that he had enclosed, immediately, to be forwarded by
the penny post. I am with ~~some~~ dear friends, in a retirement, about 2 miles from
Southampton. I believe the situation is not less pleasant, than what you have
seen in Kent. I preach 3 or 4 times a week in my friends house to 100 or more
people. There are 4 Churches in Southampton, but the Pulpits are all shut against
me. The Ministers will not admit me, because I am known to preach the Doctrines,
to which they themselves have subscribed. Alas!

I may be thankful that they cannot prevent my preaching at St. Mary
Woolmeth. There I have full liberty. I am ~~not~~ ^{not} restrained nor interrupted, either
by Prelates, by Presbyters, by Manages or by Committees. And the Lord has made
many willing to hear me.

I have a letter from D. Robbins of Plymouth in Massachusetts, whose
name I never heard of before. I will I could shew it you. He gives an account of
a sudden revival of Religion in his place, much like that you had from Belas.
It began since Christmas last, at a time when every thing seemed dead or declining
around

around him. He has been Minister there upwards of thirty years. He writes like a good old Soldier. Thus, in different places, the work of Zion is building up, in these troublous times. The Lord has not forsaken the Earth but as it is. In London we have abundance of the Gospel, & perhaps it never was more clearly & practically preached. But we may lament with you the want of men accompanying power. However good is done, & perhaps we are much favoured in this respect, at St. Mary's, as in most places, and we have the blessing of peace & unanimity. And I can see several persons in the Assembly, who I believe would have been judg^s eminent Christians, had they lived in the best of days.

Myself & I ~~are~~ are favoured with perfect health. They join me in a tender respect to you. I pray the Lord to bless you in all things, & hope we shall have a share in your prayers. I hope to be at home in about three weeks, if nothing unforeseen should require my return sooner.

I am yr. affectionate friend &
Servant John Newton

Southampton 2. Sept. 93.

Please to forward the enclosed, when opportunity offers