



4-9-1796

# Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, April 9, 1796

John Newton

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London Twelve April 1866

Mr J Campbell  
Grays Market

Alphington Edr



Dear Sir

It is time to make a little ~~public~~ acknowledgment for 3 or 4 letters & notes from you since I wrote last.

Were you present I would talk with you about the London Mission. As it is I have no more to say, than that I pray the Lord to prosper their main design, & that I sent my name & Guinea (with yours) as a token of my good will. It is not necessary that you & I should think exactly alike about the Brethren. All that I know is, that the Lord has greatly owned their silent, suffering & persevering labours.

I am glad your Sunday school prospers, & I pray that he who put it into your heart to attempt watering others, may abundantly water your own soul. I love Mr. Clark, & hope the Lord will own him, tho' he could not submit to wear a gown exactly of the same shape with mine.

I am glad to hear that the seeds of a Mission are sown in Scotland, & that you have agreed to keep the business on your own side of the Tweed. I do not approve of Dr. Smarts attack upon the Society, but I could wish his answer had been less severe.

What you say of Miss S - with respect to Mr. Whitford & Dr. Erskine is remarkable, but such things have been known. A very poor old man in Olney had a son, who behaved very ill, run away, & went to India in a Man of war. Some years after, a Man came to Olney to tell him that ~~his~~ his son was dead. Are you sure of it? Yes very sure. I was his ship-mate, & in an engagement with the French, he was killed by a Cannon Ball. I stood near him & saw him killed. The old Man did not return to Olney. He only grieved a little, & then said, Well, I shall see my boy here again for all that. So it proved. He came home safe & sound. The Lord called him by his grave, & he was one of my people for many years.

Your Cousin has called on me twice, but not to stay. So that we have had no particular talk yet. But I have invited him to come whenever & as often as he pleases.

I sent Thomas's letter immediately to the Editor of the Magazine.

I read it, but made no alterations, only desired that my name may not appear. I am afraid I am excluded from that publication, which I am sorry for. But while a writer in it, I think myself in some measure responsible for the contents. In the month of March there was an anecdote so called - false in itself, dishonourable to Mr. Romaine were it true, & cruel to 2 Gentlemen of respectable characters, tho' not quite in our line, who will be gibbeted all over the Kingdom, as objects of contempt & indignation. I do think I shall <sup>not</sup> any more <sup>write</sup> tell this idle tale, is contradicted, & an apology made for the insertion. And I have little expectation that these terms will be acceded to. They promised that the profits of the Magazine should be appropriated to the relief of poor Neweders

Minister's widows. But they have since given £400 to their Mission Society  
& Lent to the Baptists, which is but another way of making 22 poor  
widows contribute £5 apiece. I am sorry for this - they have such  
funds & resources that it was not necessary to rob Peter, as we say, to pay  
Paul.

I think one principal part of the Seal of the Spirit, is the  
indissolubility of Holiness, a conformity to the mind which was in Christ, as  
the Seal leaves its counterpart upon the melted wax. Without which all  
appearances of his love to us, all persuasions of our love to him cannot be fully  
depended upon. But your Paper, tho' this particular is not mentioned, will  
read very well, & is a very good one. You may send your following papers to me  
if you please, I will read them, & forward them, but I had rather they should  
not appear as letters to me.

Mr. B. & Mr. Buchanan are people quite to my taste. They certainly  
will be recommended to you when they may they will recommend them  
selves. He has breakfasted with me twice, they both dined & drank tea with  
us on Saturday last, & we expect them to do the same next Tuesday.  
The Selective Society likewise, at my desire, has invited Mr. Buchanan  
to our next Meeting (Apr. 18). I can assure you we do not often invite strangers.  
But I think I shall procure the Society a treat, by proposing him.

It is pleasing as you observe to see the partition of walls  
of Bigotry tottering. It is remarkably so in Scotland. The Seceders who were  
accounted the most rigid, were the people who first introduced my Name there  
& reprinted 3 vol. by J. N. at their own risk, when the Booksellers having no  
knowledge of me would not venture. There seems of late a closer coalition among  
the sound Dissenters in England. But I am afraid this union is partly the  
effect of agreement in Democratic principles. But the Lord can overrule  
overrule all for good. I desire & by his grace <sup>I resolve</sup> to love all who love him averse  
in Dr. Watts's Children's hymns, suggests a good hint for children six foot  
high. I wish to adopt it for my rule.

I'll not willingly be offend'd, Nor be easily offend'd;

What's amiss I'll strive to mend, And endure what can't be mend'd.

I believe I have noticed most particulars in your letters before me. I could talk  
on, but time fails, & I must in close a line for Brother Black.

May the Lord's peace & presence be with you & with your affections  
on  
John Newton

N. B. 9 April 95.

Mr. John Campbell  
Grass Market Edinburgh

This will be delivered by  
the Rev. William Ward,

Receive him as myself

John Newton

5 July 98.