



10-22-1799

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, October 22, 1799

John Newton

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Recommended Citation

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My dear friend

Time was, when you received frequent & long letters from me; but times are altering. I shall always love you, but my letters will probably decrease in number & in size. For I grow old. But yours to me I hope will be frequent & full. [So far, I write to a fortnight ago, I have not had leisure to peruse all this St. Cecilia's)

Yours of the 27th July found us at Southampton. It brought the good news of your safe return home; & I was thankful for the courage & prudence, the Lord gave you on that board. They are both Christian Graces when connected; but if separated courage degenerates into rashness, and prudence into forwardness. The order of the Assembly to exclude such a regular Minister ^{such as Mr. Johnson} from preaching in any of your churches, was unworthy of their Post, and will be a stain upon their Character. I hope the insinuations in their Remonstrance, are equally unjust now; but I wish there had at no time been ground given. And if it be true that a zeal for the Circus Service, has induced many valuable persons to forsake the institution as Mr. Black, Dr. Davidson, Mr. Buchanan, & others of a like Character, so that good Ministers have been hurt & driven ^{by those whom they loved} from their stations. But I trust, if due ^{provision} is made in the success of these respectable Ministers, in places sadly destitute of the Gospel, I expect there will be some mixture of human infirmity in the best designs of the best men. And Satan will be busy, when he feels his Kingdom ~~shaking~~ shaken. But the Lord will accept the intentions of his faithful Servants, and overrule all things eventually for good: He will plead their cause, and put their enemies to shame & silence, if they can but simply and patiently commit

Ms. A. 9. 2. 59

Mr. John Campbell

Gramp. Market
Edinburgh

it to them. But if they take it too much into their own hands, they usually make Bad, Worse. The weapons of our war are not carnal. We should disclaim, not only pen and sword, but angry disputations and ~~not~~ invective, for these likewise are carnal weapons. The Apostle says, 'Being despised we entreat.'

Thro Mercy there is some stir among the Soldiers ~~at~~ ~~Cheshire~~, & more among the Seamen, in the Navy. May the Lord contain them, and increase their Numbers!

Now for yours of the 28. Sept. I am glad to hear you have so much to produce of Col. Blackides. May you live to see it in print, whether I do or not. You are not in your 75th year.

I have distributed all the Money as you directed. If you can part with the Greenhow's to the Booksellers, at the Trade price, you are desir'd to do it.

The News from the Arkhays and Shetland is pleasant indeed. I pray the Lord to bless the labourers more & more.

If you remit more money from Greenhow, please to deduct of 25th for the Sermons. I gave them to you ^{they cost me nothing.}

I pray the Lord to warm your heart to and to guide your pen, while you are writing for the Jamy people!

Last week, I was at Clapham, and saw the 21 African Blackbirds - The girls were at Battersea, out of my reach. When I went in to the School, I said Lemmo, which is being interpreted, 'How do you?' Two or three answered Bah, that is, I thank you. By which I know that they had some knowledge of the language of Shesbro, the scene of my Bondage. I am told the Boys come forward open, behave well, & seem very happy; and especially when the ser. Mr. Macaulay, who is now married, & come to settle at Remington, between Clapham & London

Continue to write long letters to often. I love to hear from you, & will thank you when I can. Miss Castle joins me in love; pray for us.

May the Lord grant that you may always answer the description of the Forementioned in Jer. 17. 7, 8. I am your very affectionate

22. Oct. 99

John Newton
If you think proper, I wish you to show Mr. Black this letter, and perhaps he will let you see mine to him.