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Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, January 3, 1793

John Newton

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London fourth Jan 3 93

Mr J Campbell

Grays Inn

St Martins Lane



Dear Sir,

I have at last, after some trouble
& expence (since you to the wheat threentimes,) received the Ebenezer
I have with this pay the £ 1. ⁶/₁₂ to Mr. Scott, according to
your orders when I see him

You have given me a proof that printing is cheap
er in Scotland than with us. But my old connection with Mr
Johnson is of such long standing, & he has behaved so much
to my satisfaction, that I could not ~~wish~~ change my
method, without his full concurrence. Indeed it is at pres-
ent out of the question, as I have nothing to print. But there
will probably be another Cardiphonia Volume or two after
my dismission if not before it

You told me you had been once or twice
with Lord G. G. It is rumored since you left us, that
you have connections with him in the printing way. If this
is a false report, I shall be glad of your authority to contra-
dict it. If it be true, it would be a bar every way however
I might otherwise wish to engage with you

I begin to be thankful, if the Lord is pleased
to make any thing that I can write useful to you. The blessing
is all from him, but he can employ what instruments he pleases
& make us helpful to each other. I would join with you in
praying that you were no more hurt, by your falls, & in
praying that the affliction may be both sweetned & sanctified
to you

I have no skill in the subject of Scotch Patronages
I suppose they are what is called Legal, or they can't not take
place. But some things decreed might in Law, then will be
which are not quite consistent with equity. I believe we have
as few in our Nation, as in any. I wish to be more thankful
for the peace & liberty we do enjoy. The crooked things I would
leave to him, who only can make them straight. You seem generally
to think this evil is accounted for good, by stirring up the people
& spreading the Gospel. If this be preached in simplicity, & be-
ground by a much ~~unoffensive~~ inoffensive behaviour in those who
propose it - It does not much signify, whether they meet in
a Church, a Chapel or a Barn.

The times are gloomy. But the Lord's will
To him I would refer every thing in Public or in Private life
There is Discontent in some hearts, & in some places. But I
ought to be discontented with myself, that I am not filled with
wonder & praise that things are so much better with us, than
we deserve.

If I was to add another Article to our Liberty, it
might run thus

From Poison & Politics, Good Lord deliver us
I think a Political Spirit is as hurtful to the Life of God in the
Soul, as Poison is to the Bodily frame.

I cannot ~~but~~ wish that Patronages were suppressed
on our side of the Tweed. I think ~~it~~ few Gospel Ministers
would be chosen in England by the people. I think the Elections,
would generally resemble Contested Elections for a Member of
Parliament.

I am sorry that I forgot your order for 6 sets of the Mepps
also but I will speak for them, as soon as I can. A new Edition of Amicorum
& of M. A. - a Expensiveness, has both in the press, & would have been published
before now but that the printers are full of political business, & the winter
of what are called the Holidays, & which will to many an more empty
Idle days, & Sunday days, has been some hindrance.

I must write briefly, busy as much as I am. With Miss
Callister thanks for your kind remembrance, & my sincere prayers for your
welfare.

I remain affectionately yours
John Newton

3 Jan'y. 93.