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Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, June 2, 1792

John Newton

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Recommended Citation

Newton, John, "Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, June 2, 1792" (1792). *Newton/Campbell Letters*. 19.
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London Fourth June 92

Mr. J. Campbell

Grays-Inn

Eding

Northampton



Dear Sir,

I have been sent ^{by} 2 or 3 letters directed to Dr. Newton. I beg you to inform my friends in Scotland as they come in your way, that after a little time, if any letters come to me, addressed to Dr. Newton I shall be obliged to send them back unopened. I know no such person, I never shall, I never will, by the Grace of God.

Do not think I am displeas'd with you, or any of my kind friends, who mean me kindness & honour by such an address. I only beg for my peace sake, that it may not be repeated. I have been inform'd that a College in America,

I think in ~~the~~ New Jersey, has given me the Honorary degree of Doctor. So far as this mark of their favour, indicates a regard to the Gospel truths which I profess, I am much pleas'd with it. But as to the title itself I renounce it heartily; nor would I willingly be known by it, if all the Universities in Europe conferr'd it upon me.

My youthful years were spent in Africa, & I ought to take my degrees (if I take any) from thence. Shall such a compound of misery & mischief, as I then was, be called Doctor? Surely not.

I thank you for some pamphlets I lately receiv'd. I have not had time to read them all; but doubt not I shall like them all, but that which I have read - The Dialogue. I cannot say I approve either the manner or the spirit of it. I am sent, when I speak to you

are put into the Devils mouth— nor do I think that we are war-
ranted to consign even Socinian Ministers so early, to his power. I
suppose a ready pen man at Damascus might have written a smart
dialogue between the Devil & Saul of Tarsus. But Saul became Paul,
Grace has long & strong arms; & I think it more becoming a Christian,
to be unwilling to give any one up, while living. In truth I can
not think that Dialogue likely to do much good— & if it was only de-
signed to hold up an Opponent to ridicule & contempt, it might
as well have been spared. It is my mercy that I am not a Socinian
and for had I been left to myself, I might have been among the
foremost. It becomes me to be thankful; & to pity & pray for those
who know not what they do. May the Lord open their eyes. Then
they will soon be of our number.

I can have no solid objection to your making
use of my letter, ^{you} must have taken the trouble to show me the con-
texts. Only if my name is mentioned, let it be W— To see
"I." in print, would distress me exceedingly.

I shall be abroad (if the Lord please) four or five weeks.
from J. & Ind^s.

May the Lord bless & guide you
& your affectionate servant

John Newton

2 June 92.

I know nothing of the book you speak
of— The Arabian Slave &c;

You may have observed that my term is
not for controversy. I leave it to more
capable hands

Non omnes populus omnia.