

December 20th, 1792

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, December 20, 1792

John Newton

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Recommended Citation

Newton, John, "Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, December 20, 1792" (1792). *Newton/Campbell Letters*. 21.
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D^r Sir

It is long since I received your letter, but I hope my answer will arrive in a good hour. I cannot write when I please, but I have not forgotten you.

The state of your Nerves and Natural Spirits, affords the Enemy great advantage in his attempts to distress you, and he will make the most of it, so far as he is permitted. But the Lord holds him in a chain, beyond which he cannot pass. He may worry & teaze you, but he shall not destroy you.

In your case I apprehend, Air & exercise, with a change of scenes & company, seem important means of relief, by the Lords blessing. In this view I would advise you, if your health & other circumstances will permit, to attempt another journey to London, or home back, when the Spring comes forward.

In the mean time remember who has said, When thou passest thro' the floods, & thro' the fire, I will be with you. His power is manifested in our weakness & difficulties. He knows your frame and your path, and is able to deliver you. He himself suffered being tempted, & knows what we feel when in temptation. I hope your conflicts will end in victory; they certainly will, if you trust in him, & cry to him for Mercy. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the Morning.

You will do well to employ yourself, as much as you

you can, not to be much alone, nor to indulge musing. These things
will but aggravate your Malady. I know it is difficult in such
cases, to use exertions. But you should attempt it as much as poss-
ible. What we know not now, we shall know hereafter.

The Lords way is in the Deep, the reasons of his Dispensations are
then hidden from us, but they are always worthy of his Wisdom &
goodness. The heaviest part of Jobs suffering, seem to have had some re-
semblance with yours. And the Psalmist Ps 88. seems to speak as mourn-
fully as you can. These things are not new, I know & have known
many, who suffer in the like way. But Jobs end was more than his
beginning, so I hope yours will be.

My increasing business obliged me to write short^d let-
ters than formerly. My heart is with you however. I pray the
Lord to bless and keep, & in his good time, to give you the oil
of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit
of heaviness.

I am your sincere friend

Your servant J S

20 Dec 92

J. M. W. 3 - 8