

September 19th, 1799

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, September 19, 1799

John Newton

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.spu.edu/newton_campbell

Recommended Citation

Newton, John, "Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, September 19, 1799" (1799). *Newton/Campbell Letters*. 23.
https://digitalcommons.spu.edu/newton_campbell/23

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Digital Commons @ SPU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newton/Campbell Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ SPU.

18
Lindiswhiteuch Ness
Mr John Campbell
Grays Croft
Edinburgh
Thos. M. M.

copy?



[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting in the left margin and across the top of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

CP
Ladies Whitechapel
Mr John Campbell
Great Street
Buckingham
Mr. Christie

My dear Sir,
This comes rather to acknowledge than to answer your two letters. For being upon the remove, I inadvertently packed them up, not expecting leisure to write here. But as I have a spare hour, & expect to be fully taken up with indispensables for a time, when I return home, I will write something more, lest you should think me negligent, or ungrateful. We (meaning Miss Patten & myself) left London, viz. 19 July - were one week at Reading, & have been here the rest of the time. I expect to see N. C. viz. 19 Inst. I should leave this pleasant place, & these kind friends with reluctance, if I was not going Home. And thus tho' we have many friends & comforts in this World, yet one bright powerful view of our heavenly Home, will, when the time comes, I trust, make us willing & ready & glad to leave all below.

Mr. Grimshaw's life of which I undertook to give some account, has lain by untouched two years, & perhaps I never should have been able to finish it, if I had not brought it with me, & likewise made a resolution to write no letters while abroad (excepting business excepted) till I had done with Mr. Grimshaw. This is the reason why you have not heard from me sooner, ^{for I don't have you in my debt.} for I have served all my friends alike. I have now finished what I intended, according to the ability the Lord has given me. It all is well, I suppose it will appear in print before Christmas. I shall send a few to you, but they must be for ~~the~~ Pale, as I have devoted the profits of the First Edition (at least) to the use of the Society for the relief of the poor Clergy. This reminds me to enquire after Col. Blackadore, the Christian Soldier. When will he be ready to march forth from the Camp into the Shop?

I preach here three evenings in a week, as I believe I told you, I did ~~do~~ that two last years. My friend ~~was~~ Mr. Taylor, has made accommodations to receive about 300 people, & we are sometimes full. To morrow evening will be my Farewell Sermon. Barely now on my 74th year, I seem to take a final leave of my friends in every place. It may be otherwise, as my health is somewhat ^{good}, & I have but few of the symptoms of advancing age. I am in the Lords hands - willing to live (no one has left reason from external, to be weary of life) and if the Lord is pleased to be with me, when the time comes, I shall not be afraid to die. He has promised strength according to our day, & I aim to rely upon his faithful word.

Notwithstanding the Throwing of the French, & the confusion & misery which they have spread over the greatest part of Europe, & which has reach'd even to our Sister Kingdom; when this Island is still preserv'd in Internal peace, I do not think Wonderful. To meet appears almost miraculous. May we not accept his repeated interpositions in our favour, as a token for good; that tho' He will chasten, He will not destroy us, nor give us up to the Will of them that hate us? May we not accept it as an answer to the prayers of his Remnant amongst ^{us} a small remnant indeed compar'd with the Nation at large; but not very small in the aggregate number. If all who stand in the breach pleading for Mercy could be brought together into one place, I trust they would appear a goodly Company. And tho' they are dispers'd & scatter'd up & down the land, the Isle of the Earth, which preserves it from total Ruin & destruction; yet in his view they are all One, connected Army who meet & unite daily & often at the same rallying point, the throne of grace. I do not think the Spirit that is engag'd to spread the Gospel at Home, as well as abroad another token for good, at such a time as this. For from

removing ~~the~~ Embassadors, which might have an awful appearance of War, I trust it is increasing this Number & enlarging this power. Many neglected barren spots, in different parts of our Kingdom are already beginning to enjoy'd blessing as the Rose. I question if any thing you see in Scotland, can give you an Idea of the Ignorance & Wickedness, that reign in many of our parishes; when they are so little destitute of the form, than of the Power of Godliness, when that which does an Edom, even on thousands of days, where three fourths of the Children of ten or twelve years ago cannot tell their Letters. But these evils are diminishing partly by the Sunday Schools in some places, & partly by the Village Pradery which the Evangelical Dispensers, are atty forward in most of our Counties, & in which I tho' not a Dispenser, greatly rejoice, & daily pray for the ~~of~~ the Official Shepherds know not to feed or to care for, either themselves or their flocks, I would be thankful that others are stirr'd up to supply their lack of service. I cannot much for Order, Regularity or Consistency in such a case. When a house is on fire, people of any party or profession are welcome to bring water to extinguish it, whether Churchman or the many Elders or Plowmen.

The ways of God in his Providence are untraceable by us, but we are sure they are right. They would not be His ways, if we could comprehend them. Isa. 55. 8. 9. But our path of duty lies plain & straight before us. Ezek. 9. 4. Remember me to all friends. I have more in Edinburgh than I have room or time to name. The Lord bless us all, & give us one heart & mind, to promote his glory, & the good of our fellow creatures, in our respective posts. And that we need fear no thing for ourselves. My father joins in every best wish, with your affectionate Son
Sathampton of 17. Sept 98.

Friend, John Newton