September 12th, 1798

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, September 12, 1798

John Newton

Mr John Campbell

Grain-Market

Edinburgh

My dear friend

My friend Mrs McSmith is advised to go to Edinburgh. I must refer you to herself for her story at large

Her husband Edward Smith is Captain of a line of battle ship in the West-Indies. But he left his wife & only daughter to cohabit with another woman by whom he has had several Children. Soon after she was thus deserted, the Lord led her to my Church, & I knew no but she was the first fruits of my Ministry at St Marys. From that time ~~time~~, I have known her well, & loved her much. Since the year 88 she has resided at Newcastle, for cheapness - having as I believe, received no support from her Husband for several years. And her Income is very small.

I can only bear testimony to her piety, which I believe I may safely do, & to my regard for her which is very sincere. Her qualifications for active life, I have had no opportunity of knowing. But her daughter Miss Smith is a respectable young Woman. I have heard a good character of her both from Newcastle & Hull, & I judge from the Testimonial on the other side, that she is well qualified to assist as a Teacher in a School, or to superintend young ladies in a private family. If I was at Edinburgh, I would go round to all my friends, to Mr Buchanan, Mr Black, Mr Hamilton, Mr & Capt Haldane, & every one whose kind attention I have experienced, & request their influence interest & favour in behalf of this Widowed Wife & her Child, whom may be called Fatherless, tho' her Father is still living. At Edinburgh they will be strangers in a strange land, but Mrs Smith knows the Lord has many gracious people, & that I have more than a few kind friends there. But as I cannot do this in person, I depute the service to you, as a point which I have much at heart. And if the Lord is pleased to make you an Instrument of good to them, I verily believe you will thank me for the opportunity.

With Miss Catlett's respects I remain,

Your affectionate & obliged

John Newton

No 6. 12 Oct. 98. There is a letter of mine to Miss Smith in the Evangelical Magazine, I think in 94, or 95.

Sir

This is to certify that Miss Olivia Smith was Boarded six years with my worthy Predecessor the late Mrs Greenwell, during which time she behaved herself in a manner that gained her the love & friendship of the whole Family; I think her a well-informed sensible young Person, and one who is very capable of assisting in a School, as being well acquainted with every useful branch of Education.

I am Sir with respect
your humble Servant
Ann Holton

Durham Oct. 2d 1798—