



1-7-1794

# Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, January 7, 1794

John Newton

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London Night Jan. 9 34

Mr J. Campbell  
Grays Market

Alphington Esq



My dear Sir, The minute <sup>after</sup> I had sent off my letter to you  
I received yours of y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> which I should not have acknowledged  
so soon, but to assure you, that the rumour of my having ab-  
tund my sentiments of the revival in Wales, is entirely unfound-  
ed. When Mr. Charles was in London, he told me, that what  
appeared sudden & extraordinary in the affair, was in a great  
measure subsided, & that some who were affected they knew not  
well why were returning to their former level; but that he hoped  
the revival itself, was in the main solid & abiding.  
This is as much as I expected, & this is all I have known of  
the matter since Mr. Charles wrote to you. Therefore my senti-  
ment, that many blaspheims would fall off, & my hope that many  
would abide, & yield good fruit, remains still the same.

I thank you for your information respecting  
the Letters to a Wife. You will perceive by the preface, that  
I was aware of the different opinions, which would be formed of  
a Book rather Novel in its kind. None but married persons  
can be competent judges of the Subject. Nor all of these.  
The unfeeling, the Careless & the Licentious, will think it perhaps  
soddy & folly. But as I said, if my leading motive was right,  
I ought to be in good measure indifferent to the judgment of  
Menials. To be sure it was a high gratification to me  
to erect a Monument of affection & gratitude to the memory  
of my excellent Wife - but had this been my only view, I  
durst not have done it. I intended it chiefly as a Memorial  
of the Lords goodness to a Chief sinner, to confirm the account  
again



given in my Narrative, & to record many additional instances  
of his Wonderful Providence in my favour. I thought likewise  
it would afford proof, that there be a degree of consideration  
regard to the Lord, of submission to his Will, of dependance  
upon his care, & of answers to prayer, in a person whose  
doctrinal light is very indistinct, & before he has formed a  
systematic & clear view of the Truths. Indeed this my  
knowledge was at times, more defective than it is even now,  
some of the <sup>most</sup> happy days of Communion with God, I  
ever knew, ~~and~~ while I was a Sailor, & particularly in the  
my third & last voyage to Africa. Indeed I wish I have  
ought to say, I <sup>could</sup> trust him as singly at present, as  
I did then.

I felt a desire of publishing some extracts of  
my letters to her, from the day that she left me, & perhaps  
sooner. But I deliberated upon it a whole year before I  
undertook it. I submitted it frequently to the Lord; & from  
the time I began, I believe I may say, there was not a page  
of it written, without prayer for his direction & guidance  
I hope he ~~enabled~~ inclined me to begin, I am sure he ena-  
bled me to finish; for tho' it was in the main a pleasing task,  
but it was painfully pleasing. It cost me not only prayers,  
but tears. I thank him that is now abroad. I trust I shall  
never repent of it, I rather expect it will be a source of comfort to  
me, to the end of life, that I was spared to complete it.

With respect to others, I hoped it might be read with some  
pleasure, & perhaps benefit, by some who <sup>live me</sup> have outlived their youth.  
There

It might <sup>afford</sup> useful hints in the way of some who are about to  
enter, or may have newly entered the Marriage state. That  
it might convince some who have imbibed prejudices against  
Marriage, & convince them that there is more satisfaction  
to be found in that state when properly conducted than they  
are aware of. I hoped likewise that others might be cautioned  
by my example, <sup>against</sup> that over-abbatement, which sometimes  
cost me so dear. And I hope & believe that  
where the Lord shall have shown you the proper  
person appointed to bear your Name, & has  
brought you together, you will not regard the  
time you spent in reading letters to a Wife.

The history of my trial, in the appendix N<sup>o</sup> 1  
is to me the most interesting part. When I reflect  
(which is but every day) how I lived, what I felt,  
& how I was supported, it seems the most remark-  
able part, of my remarkable life. Surely had not the  
Lord ~~supported~~ been my helper, I had sunk like a  
stone in deep water. I thank him, that I could bear such  
a testimony to his Faithfulness & All sufficiency.

I have been already favoured with notices that my book  
has been useful in most or all the cases, I have mentioned.  
And therefore I am not much afraid of the censure of severe  
Critics. Papers & his own are brought to a close together. I can  
only add my love thanks & best wishes, with Miss Catlett's  
respects, & am assured that I am your affectionate & obli-  
g'd John Newton  
7 Jan 7 9<sup>th</sup>