

April 29th, 1794

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, April 29, 1794

John Newton

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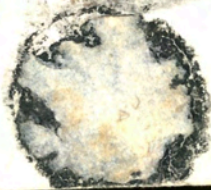
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London first May 1795

Sir J Campbell
Grass Market



Mr Schomtz Edinburgh



Indeed my Dear Sir, I must not apologize to you, for you
are served much sooner than comes to your turn. I have at present about
60 unanswered letters, & while I am writing One, I usually receive Two, so
that I am likely to die much in debt. I have dear friends to whom I cannot
write for a year or two or longer - tho' perhaps I am forced to write to those
whom I never saw. But you are not likely to be omitted so long, because
you repay me with interest, & besides your own letters, which are always well
come, you send me anecdots & bits from other quarters, which I thank
you.

Please to tell Miss Gutschmidt, that I thank her for her obliging letters
She asks my sentiments of the times. She may see them in print, if the Last
Sermon I lately printed, should reach Edinburgh.

Cardiphonia ~~was~~ is made up of letters which were actually
written to my friends, & were returned to me that they might be printed. I
have a collection of more transcribed for the press: I think sufficient for
2 volumes, which will probably be published after my death, but not before.
Such ~~two~~ additions ~~would~~ as you propose would not suit Cardiphonia, for
I could not write confidential letters, which I intended, at the time, should
appear in print. I ascribe the blessing the Lord has given to Cardiphonia
chiefly to this circumstance, that there was not a line in the two volumes
written with the least thought, that it would ever appear in Public. There
might be an allusion to Corinon in the manner you mention, but I
have no time for it, & indeed I have already printed enough for one.

I thank you ^{for} promising me some copies of the 3^d Anniversary
ry. They will be acceptably tho' I did not choose to print it myself. I thank
you likewise before hand for Mr. Charles's letter.

I lately received 3 vol of Mr. Riccalton of Hobkirk sent, as
I understand, by his Son, who is the Publisher. And I am informed he has
suffered by their not selling. It is a wonder to me that they have not found
a ready sale. Only I am told there were but 2 of the 3 volumes sent to London.
And therefore I suppose people were not eager to buy an incomplete work.

I think if they were all ~~these~~^{these} in our land on shops, & advertised a little, they
would soon be called for. I said I meant with a human writer, to whose judg-
ment I can implicitly subscribe, in all points. But upon the whole these books
have pleased me highly, & I think have thrown light upon some parts ~~of~~^{them}
which I did not so well understand before I read them. I never heard of ~~the~~
~~books~~ before, tho' they were printed in 1792.

Your sorrowful complaints have often been mine, if they
are not so now, it is not because I fulfil ground for them, but because, as
I hope, I am more acquainted with the remedy provided against them.
I see much daily, continual, cause for humiliation, whether I look back-
ward or inward. But if it be true that Jesus lived & died for sinners, & is
now a High Priest upon the Throne. If he really said, "Him that cometh
unto me I will in NO WISE cast out, if he means what he said, if his
words may be taken, & if He be able to make it good, then I can see no just
cause for distress. The sum of my complaints amounts but to this - that I
am a sick sinner, diseased in every part - but then if He who is the Infalli-
ble Physician has undertaken my case, I shall not die but live, & de-
clare the works of the Lord. I have no remarkable experience to talk
of; I never was like Paul at any difficulty to tell whether I was in the body
or out of the body; I am always burdened with a body of sin & death. But
I have a little book, which I am enabled to believe is the sum of ^{Word} God. The
doctrines & promises I meet with in it, which we call the Gospel, exactly
suit my wants, & the temper & conduct it is designed to form, agrees with my
leading desires. I was once far otherwise minded, & should doubtless have
remained so, had not Almighty power & mercy softened me. I would therefore
praise him for what he has done, & wait upon him to do more, for I can do
nothing for myself. In the meantime instead of complaining, I would try
to be thankful. If He has begun a good work, I dare not ~~indulge~~^{indulge} or
doubt of his carrying it on. This would be to dishonor his ^{wisdom} power & faithfulness.

For the rest, if the Scripture describes the Christian life as a War

fare & a wrestling, why should I be discouraged, that I find it so? The Apostle says
of all Believers, "The flesh striketh against the Spirit, & the Spirit against the flesh, if it
was otherwise with me, How could I be right?"
Give my love to Mr. Fearon. I might say the same things to him
We have all need of patience! We hope to see you at last. But I am far from the Idea
of two battles without thinking of a valley between them; nor of a victory without a previ-
ous conflict. My love be likewise to Mr. Dickinson, if, as I hear, he is married, tell him I
wish him much happiness in his luck.

This day fortnight a young man from Edinburgh named George
Brown called upon me. He was recommended by my friend Lawson (to whom if you see
him I send my love.) I was then engaged, but I gave him good words, & pressed him to
come again, but I have not seen him since.
Tell Miss Goldsmith, that if her Brother pleases to call upon me,
I shall be glad to see him.

I commend you & yours, to the great & good Caretaker, & wish
a tender of Miss Catlett's respects, I remain
Dear Sir,
Your affectionate & obliged

N. C. 29 April 94.
John Newton
W. Brown breakfast with me this morning (1 May) I like
him well. I find he is acquainted with Mr. Folger's son of South, to whom I
beg you to present my love.