



December 17th, 1795

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, December 17, 1795

John Newton

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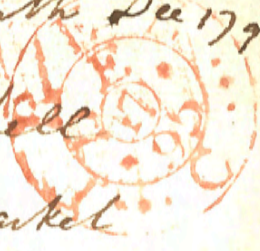
London seventeenth Dec 1795

Mr J Campbell

Grays market

Edin

Wm Thornton



Dear Sir,

began 12 Dec

I have again a good heap of your letters before me for which I thank you, I must notice them briefly as they come, & the last happens to stand first.

D^r. Proudfit calls one evening, a time when I never ask any body to stay, for I ~~was~~ need the evening much, to wind up the affairs of the day. But I invited him plentifully to come again. This was on the 6th Inst. I have not seen him since. The book he brought, was published last year in London, from a translation made in Holland, I have not yet compared it with yours, but I shall probably like yours best, as I judge from some passages in mine, the translator was a Dutchman.

I have ^{heard} nothing of the Society of Ministers ^{in the Establishment} of forming themselves to promote Missions. Nor does it seem needful. Enlarging the funds of the Moravian, that they might extend their plans. I should think men likely to succeed, as there are no people so well qualified for that service as they. I pray for the success of the New Mission Society that has lately made so much stir. I hope good will come of it. But I neither approve their plan nor their spirit. I know some of the Master Wheels in the Machine. There is no want of Zeal, but I wish there was more Humility. No want of money, but I wish there was less dependance upon it. The Ostentation & Confidence with which they set out, their rash censures of other Missions, & their severity against all, who do not instantly jump into their design, grieves me. The design is Noble, & I believe the intention, in the main good. All will depend upon the persons sent out as Missionaries. And tho' a Minister ^{could} hold his degree from the Pulpit, that if the Men they have now ready to send had been made in Heaven, & sent down to Earth for the service, they could scarcely have more fit for the purpose, I rather wish than expect his words may be verified. Perhaps I have said too much, but I intrust myself to your providence. I would not willingly give offence. But tho' I cannot heartily concur with them as a Public man, I seldom forget to pray for them, both at Church & at home. I will pay your Guinea, & add one of my own, ^{as a token of my good will} when any of the Managers or Directors come in my way. But as they are very Rich, & I did not appear amongst them at first, I question whether I shall be called upon.

I cannot now proceed to your other letters, for as I wish you to have my anniversary verses for this year, I am afraid of overloading the bank of I fill the sheet; & for this reason I only send you One Copy (with one for my Sister) but that one is entirely at your service, to do with it what you please.

Your 21 Nov: contains the history of John Ranald, & some other anecdotes, for which I thank you. I believe the lines you quote from D^r. Watts were not spoken of tongue. At least they are in one of his Lyric Poems. However your observation, that we are apt to judge of a Man's size, by the opinion we form of him, is generally true. I might perhaps think you half a head taller than you are, if I had never seen you. It is said that D^r. Watts in the early part of his life, had a penchant for the late Mr: Rowe, & the Lady while she only judged of him by his writings, was not averse to the thought. At last they had an interview, from that time, she always regarded him as a Friend, but no further.

I am sincerely yours

John Newton

17. Decr 95