

C O P Y

OF THREE

LETTERS.

The first written by Dr. *John Nicol* at *New-York*, to Mr. *William Wardrobe*, Surgeon in the *Grass-market* of *Edinburgh*; the second by a dissenting Minister in *England* to a Gentleman in *Scotland*; the third from a Minister at *Boston* to his Friend at *Glasgow*.

Giving an ACCOUNT of the Progress and Success of the Gospel in foreign Parts.

Psalm ii. 8.----I shall give thee the Heathen for thine Inheritance, and the uttermost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession. Psalm lxxii. 8. He shall have Dominion also from Sea to Sea, and from the River to the Ends of the Earth. Psalm lxxxvii. 5. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that Man was born in her: And the Highest himself shall establish her.



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LETTER I.

New-York, Dec. 17. 1739.

My dear Friend,



Cannot omit any convenient Opportunity that offers, to let you know I am yet (thro' Mercy) upon the Stage, and in Health. A Line from you would be very acceptable. When you do write, let me have a particular Account of the Seceding Brethren, *viz.* Messieurs *Erskines*, &c. how it goes with them, what Progress they make. ————— We of *New-York*, have been lately favoured with a short Visit from that excellent young Evangelist, the Reverend and famous Mr. *George Whitefield*, in his Voyage to *Georgia*. As soon as he arrived here, he applied himself to the Parson of the *English Church*, (as his Manner is) for the Use of his Church, which was denied him: Application was also made to the *Dutch*, for their large Church, which being also denied him, he went out and preached in the Fields, to a very large Auditory of all Professions, *Jews* and *Gentiles*; some of which, *viz.* the Rakes of the Town, came (as they afterwards told) with Whistles in their Pockets, on Purpose to mock and disturb him: But, behold the Power of the Word, when backed by the Spirit, quickly catch'd them, and made them change their Mind, so as ever afterwards they were constant and devout Hearers of him. Being denied the other Churches, and the Weather being excessive cold, we offered him our Church, which he was pleased to accept of, and lectured
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that Evening to above fifteen hundred People, and so he continued to preach and lecture every Day, while he stayed in the Place, which was but four Days.—I can freely say, I never heard Man speak like him, his Matter and Doctrine entirely Apostolick; chiefly insisting upon, and pressing home, the absolutely necessary fundamental Points and Duties of Christianity, such as, Regeneration, Repentance, Faith in the Lord Jesus, denying of ourselves, and all Dependence on our own Righteousness, and depending only on the Righteousness of Christ for Justification, &c. He is no Party-man; but makes it his constant Business to espouse, and gain Souls to the Lord Jesus Christ in a Gospel-way, much like the Reverend Messieurs *Erskines* in their Sonnets and Sermons, with whom he told me he keeps a Correspondence, and whose Works he heartily recommends.—*My dear Friend*, I would fain hope these are the Beginnings of glorious Times. I cannot but think they are the Dawnings of a happy reviving Day to the formal, drowly, drooping Churches of Christ throughout the World this Day. I would fain believe a *Day of Power* is at Hand, tho' I may not live to see it. Lord hasten it, hasten it; go forth with a preached Gospel; let the Arrows of thy Word pierce and sink deep in the Hearts of Sinners, that they may fall prostrate at the Throne of thy Grace. Hasten the Day when *Satan shall fall as Lightning to the Ground*. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. With sincere and affectionate Respects to self, Spouse, and all my good Friends with you, I am

Your very humble Servant,

JOHN NICOL.

LETTER. II.

I Now set my self down, according to my Promise, and your Permission, to do that by the Hand of a Friend, which I was not able to do with my own; and which I had not Time to touch upon in my last Letter; I mean, to give some Account of the State of Religion Abroad, according to the Account I have got from Count *Zinzindorff* in a Letter, which I received from him about the Middle of *December* last. ———

You may remember, that I told you formerly, that this holy Man had laid aside his secular Employments and Dignities, and devoted himself to the Pastoral Care of a Church, consisting chiefly of a considerable Number of pious *Moravians*, who had fled from their native Country on Account of Persecution, and by his Encouragement fixed themselves at *Hermith*. It is something more than a Twelve Month, perhaps, near two Years since, by the Severity of the King of *Poland*, under the Instigation of the *Jesuits*, they were driven from thence, and the Count obliged to part with his Estate there. But, God has been pleased, as in many former Instances, to over-rule this Persecution for the Good of his Church. For whereas, before they had sent out their Missionaries into several Parts of the World; and whereas I think (I told you) some or other of them continually Night and Day prayed for their Success, and the Propagation of the Gospel in the World; so they looked upon this Providence as a Call to abound more and more in this good Work. They have indeed fixed their Head-quarters at a Place called *Hernaag*, near *Frankfort* on the

Rhine

Rhine Foot, from whence they have sent, and are sending many more into various Parts of the World; and the Accounts, which their Doctor and honoured Pastor sends me of their past Success and future Scheme, are as follow. He tells me, that he is intending a Journey into *Switzerland*, which (as I am informed in a Letter from the pious Mr. *Thorold*) he has since performed, and I am ready to imagine, he is still there. He tells me, that *Bern*, *Basil*, *Stein*, *Malhausen*, and *Scaffhausen*, have all of them received the Gospel in its Power and Purity, from the *Moravian* Brethren, who, wherever they come, are attempting a Work of Reformation, and a Revival of Religion amongst Protestants as well as Papists. And indeed the languide State of many of the Foreign Churches seems greatly to need such Attempts. The Count adds, That *Geneva* itself is impress'd with their Labours; tho' he says, it has been for a long Time so taken up with *Philosophy*, as hardly to be able to bear the Reproach of the Cross: He adds, that the Churches in *Ecthonia* and *Swenia* flourish; and that the barbarous Inhabitants of that Province do even pant after *Christ*. *Greenland* resounds with the Gospel, and several of the idolatrous Inhabitants are baptized. But the Count adds, that he cannot approve of the Methods taken by some of their Brethren there, who seem to be so intent on spreading Philosophical Knowledge there, that he fears, the Gospel of *Christ* suffers some Detri- ment by it. The most surprizing Article of all is, that their Missionaries to the *Cape of good Hope* meet with some Encouragement, and that thirty *Hottentots* have given up their Names to *Christ*, and no less than a thousand *Negroes* in
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the Island of *St. Thomas*, who have been well instructed into that Religion, into which they were baptised, and have embraced it as a Matter of free and reasonable Choice. Their Missionaries to *Georgia, Carolina, Pensilvania*, the Coast of *Barbary* in *Africa*, and that of *Surinam* in the *West Indies*, are as yet expecting the Fruit of their Labours. And Fifteen, who are now at *Virginia*, having, for some Time, employed themselves in learning the various Languages of the *Indian Nations*, are preparing to set out on a Progress amongst them, for the blessed Purpose of carrying the News of Salvation to them. There are some at *Ceylon* in the *East-Indies*; but the Count had received no Letter from them, when he wrote to me. He tells me also, That *Lapland, Muscovy, Wallachia*, and *Constantinople*, are all visited by some of the Brethren, who preach among them, (so far as I can learn) without Restraint, but, with what Success he does not mention, excepting only, that, by their Means, an hundred *Turkish* Prisoners (taken, I suppose, by the *Russians* in the late War) have embraced Christianity. The only News that he had lately received from *Genoa* was, That a converted *Negro*, living there, was endeavouring to erect Schools in the neighbouring Parts, with a View to the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. The Brethren, who were sent to preach in the Northern Parts of *Poland*, have been for some Time confined there, but are now returned again, and are very solicitous to find out some Way to prosecute that good Work, which has been interrupted by the Persecution of their Enemies. The Count informed me, that they intend quickly to visit other Parts of the *East Indies*, the Savages of *New-York*, and the

Magi of Persia: He concludes with telling me, That Churches, on their reformed Plan, are erected in *Lusatia, Saxony, Brandenburg, Brunswick, Alsatia, Swabia, Franconia, Wirtenberg, the Palatinate, several imperial Cities, Holland,* and the other States on the *Rhine*. What follows, is merely personal, but expressive of great Tenderness and Humility: And the whole closes with those emphatical Words, which I before transcribed, but which I do not think much to repeat: *Farewell in Christ our common Lord, our crucified, wounded, only healing Ransom, by whom we are redeemed from the Pit of everlasting Destruction, who is to me the dearest of all Objects.* I think, any Thing I could add, after this reviving and astonishing Account of the Work of God upon, and by these his faithful Servants, would be but flat and insipid.

P. S. *Let Mount Zion rejoice, and let all the Daughters of Judah exult, that the glorious and renowned King is on his Way, to extend his vast and boundless Dominions, and, maugre all Opposition, will pull down the Man of Sin, and destroy him with the Breath of his Mouth, and Brightness of his coming. Religion shall flourish, in Spite of Hell and Earth; and the Gospel shall have a free Course, run and be glorified, and our exalted Immanuel shall see the Nations, like Drops of Dew from the Womb of the Morning, flowing to him. Even so come Lord Jesus. Amen.*

COPY

*COPY of a LETTER from the Reverend
Mr. Moorhead Minister of the Gospel at Bos-
ton, to his Friend at Glasgow.*

Boston, New-England, Jan. 28. 1740.

I Am exceeding uneasy, because that you have not written to me by any of the Vessels that came thither. I sent you a Packet last Year per Captain *Montgomery*, bound to *Newport-Glasgow*, who got safe there.

I want very much to hear how your religious Affairs stand, and whether these Men of God succeed in their endeavoured Reformation. The Glory is departing from *Scotland*; when *Simonical* Practices are entred in, among her professed Instructors, who are returning to the Onions and Leeks of *Egypt*, when *Pagan* Divinity goes better than the Doctrines of the Son of God.

The Lord has raised up the great and good *Mr. Whitefield*, to scourge and awaken *England* and *America*. The Dead are made to live, and by him bear the Voice of the Son of God. The Face of Christianity here is covered over with Formality, and a cold Indifferency for Divine Things. I would gladly hope, that it is not so bad with Strangers as it is with the *Sectarians* of this Country, who seem disposed, and do drink in Errors and Heresies of all Kinds. Let me hear from you. May the God of *Israel* be your God, and of his People, which is and shall be the Prayer of

Your Friend and Well-wisher,

JOHN MOORHEAD.

F I N I S.