Unpublished Letters of John Wesley

Located in the Upper Room Devotional Library and Museum, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee. Transcribed from the originals by Miss Annie L. Winstead.

To
Mr John Knox, in
Londonderry

Dublin
July 20, 1765

Dear Sir

Mr Johnson gives me a pleasing account of the State of things in Derry. The affection I have for the People there, makes me rejoice in their Prosperity. I shou'd have been glad, had it been in my power, to have seen them once more, before I left the Kingdom. But as that cannot be, I am content; hoping the time will come, when I shall spend a few more days with you. And that in the mean time Mrs. Knox you, & the rest of my Friends, will be making the best of a short Life, using all the Grace you have already received, & waiting for the whole Salvation of God.

The Congregations wch attend this foolishness of Preaching, Mr Johnson informs me, are still large. But what will they do, as the Winter approaches? Perhaps it would be well to consider this now. Tis pity, but a convenient House could be built, before the end of the Summer. This might be done, while so many People are well inclined, more easily than it could be afterward. It must be expected, that ye Love of many, who are now warm in affection, will by & by grow cold. It would therefore be well, if a convenient piece of ground can be procured, to begin without delay.

I am much obliged to Mrs Knox & you for your open & friendly Behaviour, while I had the pleasure of staying with you; as well as for your helping me forward on my Journey. I trust, your Love will not grow cold, nor your Desire to make the best of a few days You see the way: Humbly to walk by Faith with God: To believe, love, obey: Having received power from on high, to walk in all ye Commandments & ordinances of God blameless. May you Both be stedfast & immovable there in, I am

I expect to stay here ten or twelve days.

Dear Sir,
Your affectionate Servant,
John Wesley
To
Mrs Woodhouse
in
Epworth, near Thorne
Yorkshire

Edinburgh
June 15 1766

My Dear Sister

I returned hither from Aberdeen last night, & on Wednesday next am to set out for Glasgow. From there I purpose going to Whitehaven, & so round to Newcastle upon Tyne, (where my wife is) so if you please to direct to me there, I shall receive it safe.

Your speaking freely obliges me much, because you thereby shew me how to help you. Indeed when we write to a Friend, to one we can trust, it is good for us, to think aloud. What wou'd be Prudence in conversing with others, has no place here. The more openness you use, the more Comfort you will find; especially in the case of strong temptations. I expect, these will frequently beset you, thro ye natural Warmth of your Spirit. But out of every temptation He will make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it. And all is by Faith, by mere simple Faith, wch makes his Fulness all your own. The full assurance of Faith, respecting what Christ has done & ye full assurance of Hope wch respects what He has promised, are both his own free Gift, & are wrought in the Heart by ye immediate operation of his Spirit. O how soon may you experience this! Believe & enter in, I am

My Dear Sister
Your affectionate Brother
JWesley

London
Nov. 11. 1769

My Dear Brother

You have done all you cou'd reasonably do, with regard to poor bro. Collins. He may have a full hearing before the Preachers: but we have no such thing as Hearings before ye Society.

Beware of the Bark! After taking a gentle Vomit (15 or 20 Grains of Ipecacuanha & one quart of warm Water, take the Pills prescribed in ye Primitive Physick, & you will scarce hear any more of your ague.

I am

Your affectionate Friend & Brother
JWesley
To
Mr Alexander Knox

Londonderry
June 6, 1775

I advise you
Never to rest; till you are altogether a Christian, all devoted to
God in Soul & in Body:
Never to sit up much later than nine, nor to lie later than five.
You want Eight hours sleep:
In spite of all hindrances, to ride at least an hour every fair day.
To dine moderately on Mutton or Veal: I believe Mutton is rather
the best.
To eat as much as you like of Spinach, Turnips, Asparagus, Arti-
choaks, & Summer Fruits: Particularly Strawberries, Gooseberries,
Currants, Mulberries, Grapes, & Damascene Plums.
To go into the water every mild Day. And
To expect, that God will do nothing but Good both to your Soul
& Body

London
Aug. 10. 1776

Dear Alleck

Such is the Wisdom of Man! "Two men in Dublin use me ill. So I
revenge myself upon an Hundred in Londonderry!" Nay, Second
Thoughts are best. I have sent a Gentleman to him, that he has a
peculiar regard for; who I make no question will easily bring him
to a better way of thinking: Especially as he has a Commission
to draw upon me for Seventy five pounds. I think tis pity but our
Friends in & near Londonderry, coud make a push & raise it to one
hundred. And if we live another year, it is not unlikely, we may
send you the other fifty. This likewise you shou'd receive as a mani-
fest token, that God has not forgotten you.

A thought comes into my mind, That you will not throughly re-
cover your Health without change of Air. I am afraid, The sea air
does you more hurt, than ye sea water does you good. I cou'd easily
take a little House for you in Kingswood or Bristol (I am going to
Bristol Monday) in wch you might live with tolerable convenience,
till that adjoining to the School was fitted up. If you wanted twenty
or thirty pounds for your passage to England, I wou'd send you a
draught for it. At all events, as ye Summer is not yet over, you shd
bathe in the sea, were it but for a fortnight Mr McKeann will give
you cash for the little Bill I have drawn upon my Bookkeeper. Let
my Dear Mrs Knox & you trust God, and continue to love

Your affectionate
JWesley
**Bristol**
Sept. 20. 1776

My Dear Alleck

Certainly Good has already arisen out of Evil. By means of Mr Hadfield’s impatience, that heavy burden is likely to be removed from the poor people, much sooner than it wou’d otherwise have been a day or two after Mr Thompson had been [torn] lking with him, he wrote a civil Letter to me, wherein he just mentioned the calm Address. But I took no notice of it in my answer being not inclined to draw the fees of Carbon copy: Especially with one that is not easily convinced of anything.

Two or three Physicians had informed the Provost of Brechis (in Scotland) That “they had done all which was in their power; but nothing wou’d avail: His son must expect to have his FIts till his dying day” He took six or eight drops of Laudanum fasting for six or seven mornings & has had no fit since. Nevertheless Bathing may be added thereto, while the weather permits. Look up! Is not Health at hand, both for Soul & Body? You have no business with Fear: It is good for nothing: We are “saved by Hope.”

The History of England was published in Spring; but it will not please the [torn] either side. Our Assistant in Dublin [torn] cou’d process it for any one. If we live till Spring & Mrs Knox is willing to remove Means shall not be wanting. For I love both Her & you, & my Dear Sally & George. Peace be with all your Spirits! I am

My Dear Alleck
Yours affectionately
JWesley

**London**
Dec. 5. 1776

Dear Alleck

It is worth while to try whether Bathing in fresh water would not have the same effect with bathing in Salt. In many cases I know it is not the salt water, but the cold water wch works the cure. Very probably Mrs Knox’s complaint might be cured, by eating a small crust of bread, or half an ounce of Sea-biscuits, every morning fasting. But I will not promise, this will take effect, unless she adds to it another Remedy, Resignation.

The “Serious people” Mr Hadfield has been among, were I suppose, the Predestinarians. But in truth, they are generally not over-shocked with seriousness any more than with Candor. If he says a word in your hearing about Mr Fletcher’s Checks, pray ask him short “Have you read them over” and if not mildly “Is it kind, is it just, to condemn a man unheard?”
Some weeks since Mr Smyth wrote to me, to desire, That Mr Haver might be removed into the Lisburn Circuit. But I did not see any sufficient cause. I know both the circuits well: and I judge he will be most useful (at least for the present) in ye circuit where he is.

There is a little price: but it is exceeding ill done. It woud rather fight than please you.

I think C. Pritchard, or Hern, shd apply to Mr Hadfield, in favour of James Regan. You have a Greater than them pleading in your favour, before the throne of God: Who in consequence of this, has thoughts concerning you, of Good, & not of evil! Peace be with all ye Spirits!

I am, Dear Alleck,
Affectionately yours,
JWesley

To
Mr Alexander Knox
Londonderry
Near London
May 20. 1777

Supposing my time were at my own disposal there woud need little solicitation to bring me to Londonderry: Especially when I coud have the satisfaction of lodging, with those I so dearly love. I have also a great desire of having an hour or two’s conversation with Mr Abraham. Who (Mr Smyth informs me) is determined as well as Mr Creighton, to give himself up to God. But I am involved in business of varicus kinds; so that I doubt if I shall see Ireland at all this year. I must not be absent long at a time from London, as many things cannot be determined without me.

You have great reason to bless God for the continuance of your health, & to expect from Him every good thing. That he may fill you all with the Spirit of an healthfull Mind is ye Prayer of Dear Alleck
Yours very affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alex Knox
in
Londonderry
London
Dec. 2. 1777

Dear Alleck

I remember receiving a Letter from Mr Watkinson a month or two ago. The Contents of it I do not remember. But I answered it immediately.
Almost every Disorder of the Bowels, whether it be attended with purging or not, may be recovered by Warm Lemonade.

An odd circumstance is just now brought to my remembrance. A Gentleman who used to be seized with fits in the night, "Let one wake you every night after you have been asleep about half an hour keep awake about half an hour longer & then sleep the rest of the night." He did so, & the fits came no more.

If you have not tried it already you might afterwards try what Laudanum will do; taking eight or ten drops in any warm Liquid, for six or seven mornings fasting. If this also fails, I doubt it woud not be worth your while to have a Bathing vessel in the House & to use it twice or thrice a week. You might pour into the cold, a teakettle full of boiling water, lest it shd chill you. And perhaps it wou'd be well to put in a pound or two of Salt. Then it will be near as good as going into the sea. If your Disorder continues still, you must leave Ireland. Perhaps in Spring I may come and fetch you.

I see no reason why either my Dear Mrs Knox or you, shd imagine God has forgotten you. No: it is plain, you are both in His School. For whom He loveth, He chasteneth. And this He intends for the Good of the whole Family. Will not George & my Dear Sally lay it to heart? But see that you take no thought for the morrow. To day is with you, present to save! I am

Your ever affectionate Friend & Brother

JWesley

To
Mr Alexander Knox
Londonderry

London
Dec. 20. 1778

Dear Alleck

It is beyond doubt that ye Scurvy is one part if not the chief part of your Disorder: And I do not know, that you can take a better method, to remove it, than that wch you now take I do not want that Eruption to strike us. Probably the Pallitory strikes it out. And it is not unlikely, it may gradually die away, without any particular application.

The great Lesson you have to learn at present is, To take no thought for the morrow, God gives you tolerable Health to day. The morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.

I suppose the Story that Gentleman tells of Mr Abraham, is literally true. He has very little understanding & no Prudence. And the worst Circumstance is, He can take no advise. He hears it with great compasion, & does just as he did before. Was this his Character formerly? Was he always a little shatterbrained? If he was, I would not keep him upon any terms. I wrote to his Mother some time
since, as I could not persuade Him to write. Mrs Stewart answered me, to whom I have wrote to day.

Mercy & Peace be with you all, I am

Dear Alleck
Yours most affectionately
JWesley

To
Alexr Knox
in
Londonderry

London
Janu. 25. 1779

Dear Alleck

In several respects Mr Abraham has taken advice, & is considerably changed for the better. Mr Smyth very earnestly advises, that I woud not insist upon his returning home. Certainly I shall not take such a step hastily. That must be the last expedient of all: and never to be taken unless we had absolutely lost all hopes of doing him good. This is by no means the case yet. I am still in hopes he will be a usefull man.

You must take care always to keep ye Body open with one gentle Purgative or another and use all the Exercise you can. Every fair day you shd ride. Very probably when you find Peace with God, your bodily Disease will be healed and who knows how soon? I am

Dear Alleck
Yours affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alexander Knox
in
Portpatrick
Londonderry

Aberdeen
June 4 1779

Dear Alleck

As soon as Mrs Stewart came to Bristol, she wrote to me herself. And so did Mr Abraham too, requesting that he might spend some time at Kingswood. I sent him word, he was welcome so to do. But since then I have heard nothing from one or the other. I wanted to know whether he is returned to Londonderry, or not? And if he is, How he is in mind, & what he does? He is an exceeding good man, but totally unqualified for a public Preacher.

Steddily attend to that Business, or hereto you are called by the
Providence of God: And you need not doubt, He will give you such a measure of Bodily Health, as is most expedient for you. Till I received yours I did not hear one word of bro. Gaffory's Death or Illness. I thought, he had been as healthy, and as likely to live, as any Preacher in the North of Ireland.

If I should ever set up a Printing press of my own, I shall reprint several Volumes of the Christian Library. Peace be with you all, I am

Dear Alleck
Yours Affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alexander Knox
in
Gloster Londonderry
Taunton
Sept. 3. 1781

Dear Alleck

Almost ever since I recd yours, I have been in perpetual motion, Everything from Yorkshire to London, from London to Bristol, & thence thro the West of England. Otherwise I should not have delayed writing so long, lest you should imagine I was regardless of you. And that will never be. I shall always love you, both for your own, & for your Family's sake. I had not any thought, of you paying me any thing, except Love. Yet for fear of grieving you, I will, if I live to see London again, call upon Mr Harvey: Upon condition, that you will let me know, if you want ten or twenty Guineas at any time: whether you repay me or not.

One Circumstance in the manner of God's dealing with man, is exceeding comfortable: namely, that he often works the greatest Changes in our Souls (perhaps Bodies too) in the twinkling of an eye. He says still "Let there be light," & there is light! Yes, when it is least of all expected. What if it shd be so, with my Dear Mrs Knox or you or both of you together? And if so, why may it not be today? Now is the day of Salvation! Does He not Delight to work like Himself? That is in such a way as it had not enterd into ye hearts to conceive

I do not despair of seeing you in Ireland again. But God's time is the best time. Peace be with all your Spirits, I am,

Dear Alleck
Your ever affectionate Friend & Brother
JWesley
To
Miss Gretton
At Mr Dewys Shoemakers
In Grastham
Cross post Lincolnshire

Newcastle
June 22, 1782

My Dear Miss Gretton

But that I am in hopes it may be some comfort to you, I shou'd not put you to the expense of a Letter. I want to help you, not to hurt you; because I feel a great affection for you. God has chosen you in the furnace of affliction and when you have been tried, you shall come forth as Gold. You know & feel, that all this is for your profit that you may be a partaker of his Holiness. Let all of you that are in one house be of one heart & one mind, striving together for the hope of the Gospel! You have already two or three in Grantham, that both love & fear God, and God does not despise the day of small things: Tho as yet it is but the Dawn of the day, yet we are sure the son of Righteousness will rise upon you, with healing in his wings. You know not but a little one will become a thousand! The Lord will hasten it in his season I am

My Dear Nelly
Your's Affectionally

JWestley

To
Mr Alex Knox
Londonderry

London
July 30, 1782

Dear Alleck

There is no great danger that I shd neglect to answer any Letter wch I receive from You. I do not remember to have received any Letter from you when I was in Edinburgh: neither have I received fifteen Guineas or any sum that I recollect, from any person of the name of Harvey: Except five Guineas wch were given me by Miss Harvey of Hertfordshire for a poor Woman in London.

There is no doubt but there is a Natural Disorder in your Body, wch (for want of better language) we call Weakness of power. And there is a disorder in your mind wch is fairly Natural, namely Unbelief. But without question, there is something Preternatural too: for Satan knows whereof you are one made, & will not fail to press every advantage wch bodily Weakness gives him. I have known never his experiences more exactly resemble each other than yours & that of George Clark (now printing American Magazine) he was
for many years thoroughly miserable: About twenty years ago he was perfected in Love, & has been ever since one of the happiest of men. Such, I expect will Alexander Knox be! What a Miracle of Mercy!

Let the Spirit now come down!
Let the Blessing now take place! Look up! Look up! The Lord is at hand! Let Him take you all together!

I am, Ever yours
JWesley

Pity but Adam Clark had come over with Dr. Coke.

To
Mr Alex Knox
Londonderry

Near London
Oct. 22, 1782

My Dear Alleck
You judge exactly right. That whole affair entirely slipped my memory. So entirely, that I do not remember to have once thought of it, from that time till I read your last. The Epidemic Distemper has had the same effect on many in various parts of England: Especially where the American Bark has been given it any considerable quantity. This has hurried the Fever in a few days or weeks into a true pulmonary Consumption. And I do not recollect any instance wherein a Consumption caused by the Bark has been cured. But I trust all this, will be Mercy to Her & Hers. For I doubt not, she will witness a good confession, before her Spirit returns to God that gave it. O how ready He is to save! To save both her & You! Yea & to save you to the uttermost! Look up! All is ready! Peace be with all your Spirits! I am,

Dear Alleck
Yours most affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alex Knox
in
Portpatrick Londonderry

St. Neots
Dec. 2, 1782

My Dear Alleck
I am glad you have favourd me with so circumstantial an account of your Sisters Death. When we lay all the particulars to-
gether there is no room for any doubt of her Spirit's being removed by the nourishing Spirits into Abraham's bosom. And it is highly probable as you observe that longer Life woud not have been a Blessing to her. So we have another Proof. That all things are ordered well! I hope my Dear Sally & George will profit by this Providential Dispensation! Peace be with all your Spirits! I am, My Dear Alleck

Yours most affectionately

JWesley

To
Mr Rodda
At Mr Wickers
In Castle Street
Oxon

London
Janu. 23, 1783

Dear Richard

It is very remarkable, that you should have a prospect of doing good at Oxford! And it is certainly a token for good, that you should find a Magistrate wishing to do you Justice.

To you who are upon the spot, I shall refer that matter, Whether it be expedient for Roger Westrup in such a situation of affairs to preach at High Wycombe, I shou'd doubt it much.

As some of our Preachers are vehement sticklers for the Bristol Trustees that affairs will sleep till the Conference, I am

Your affectionate Friend & Brother

JWesley

To
Mr Alex Knox

London
Feb. 10. 1783

My Dear Alleck

It seems to me, that your Reasons are good. Therefore I consent to your selling the Old Preaching house, & building a new one like that at Lisburn; only it should be a third part larger. For you are to provide for Sunday's Congregation; & for a Revival of the Work of God. Therefore there shoud be sufficient Height for Galleries; whether you build them at first or not. Only remember! You are
not to expect any assistance from the English Conference. For we
do not now make any Collection for building, but only for the ex-
penses of carrying on the Work. I believe the exerting yourself here-
in, will be a means of quickening your own Soul!

I am, with border Love to all the Family, My Dear Alleck
Your affectionately,

JWesley

To

Mr. Alex Knox

in

Portpatrick Londonderry

Nottingham

April 5, 1783

Dear Alleck:

If it please God to prosper us, Dr. Coke & I shall be at Dublin in
ten days. I do not think of staying there above three weeks. Prob-
ably Dr. Coke will go thro ye Kingdom. Our Dublin Conference is
to begin on Tuesday, May 6th All ye Preachers that conveniently
can, may be present.

I received from David Harvey Esq & Company fifteen Ghineas,
being the amount of an order from Thomas Bateso Esq of London-
derry.

Mr. Hadfield doubtless did deliver up the lease, but to whom the
Lease & assignment were delivered I know not In-detail (of these,
a Bond might be executed when I am Dublin, that cd secure the
Purchaser.

I like your plan well; only I doubt whether you shd not have
more windows on each side. And all sashes opening downward.
And I pray, let there be no Tub-Pulpit. I am glad to hear so good
an acct of Jo Cricket & will order Mr Alley to pay the bill.

I did not think Dr Goodman had been so clear, with regard to
Xtian Perfection. My Eldest Brother used to say That was “the best
book of its kind in the English tongue.”

Enjoy your present Health & expect ye continuance of it, And
is not this a token of better things at hand?

Peace be with all your Spirits! I am

Dear Alleck
Yours most affectionately

JWesley
To

Mr Alexr Knox
in
Londonderry

Dublin
April 23, 1783

My Dear Alleck

Above thirty years ago there was a very remarkable Revival of Religion in Holland. But the good States suppressed it at one stroke by passing a public Edict, That no three persons sh'd meet together on a religious account, under a severe Penalty. In the present Revival, it has pleased GOD to go out of his, “usual way by spreading his work, not “from the least to the greatest”, but neither from the greatest to the least. The person to whose House I am invited in Utrecht, is the head Burgomaster of the City: and those that desire to see me at Haerlem and Amsterdam, are some of the chief merchants there. So I hope the spreading a few weeks among them may answer a good intention.

You have no business to take thought for the morrow about sickness or health, or anything else. It is Your part, To make the best of today. What if you took a journey with Mr Abraham? It would be good both for your Soul & Body Dr. Coke will speedily accept of your kind invitation. He quits Dublin as soon as our little conference is over. Peace be with all your Spirits!

Dear Alleck
Yours most affectionately
JWesley

To

Mr Alex Knox

Dublin
May 3, 1783

My Dear Alleck

Since I came to Ireland my health & strength are more fully restored than they have been for several months. And my Journey will undoubtedly be attended with another good consequence. My Friends in England will not be under such dreadful apprehensions, if I should live to take another Journey to Ireland. If I do, I shall doubtless use Londonderry—tho I do not know, if Sally Knox woud be glad to see me. With regard to Mr Tho. Abraham, God accepts the Will for ye Deed. Perhaps we are not to meet, will we meet at Londonderry. Your great provb is. Believe to day! And take no thought for ye morrow.

Peace be with all your Spirits

Your affectionate Friend & Brother
JWesley
To
Mr Alexander Knox
in
Londonderry

London
Dec. 7. 1783

Dear Alleck

In the third Volume of our Work at the 267th & 268th pages, the case is clearly stated & determined. The substance of it is “What is that Faith whereby we are sanctified?” It is a divine Evidence & conviction. 1. That God has promised it in the Holy Scriptures, 2. That what God has promised He is able to perform; 3. That He is able & willing to do it NOW. There needs to be added but one thing more, a divine evidence & conviction, that He doth it. In that Hour, it is done; God says to the inmost Soul, “According to thy faith, be it unto thee.” Then the soul is pure from every spot of sin: It is clear from all unrighteousness. Look for it therefore every day, every hour, every moment! Certainly you may look for it now, if you believe it is by faith.” “But am I to believe I have it before I have it?” No; this is nonsense & absurdity It is a contradiction in terms. “Which then is first, Sanctification, or Sanctifying Faith?” In order of thinking Faith is before Sanctification. But in order of time, neither is before the other. They are simultaneous. In one instant God works & man believes. God works Faith & Man is Sanctified. God enables man to believe, & to love him with all his heart. Observe! God work’s & man believe’s. The Power is God’s, The Act is Man’s. “But if Man has no natural Power to believe, why is he condemned for not believing?” Because he may believe if he will; tho not when he will. There is therefore One saving Faith & one only, of wch every one may be partakers.

I advise you, to read over that Sermon, It may considerably clear your apprehension. But God will work in those, yea & often by those who have no clear apprehension of his work. We are commanded to hope & love, as well as to believe: and both Hope & Love are the work of God in us. But it is Man that hopes & loves. Faith, Hope & Love are all the work & the Gift of God, but the act of Man. What if He shd give you these now?

I am, Dear Alleck,

Yours most affectionately
JWesley

Tewksbury
March 18 1784

Dear Alleck

Your keeping the House will cast off a great occation of reproach.
It cannot be, but many wou'd exclaim loudly, if a Preaching house were turned into a Playhouse. It wou'd undoubtedly have the appearance of Evil. So all is ordered well. And I doubt not a good Providence will find some other way of supplying all your wants.

The twenty days Illness which I had in August last, left me much that it found me. All my Illnesses lend to improve my Health; but have so much as my Fever in the North of Ireland. That gave me quite a new Constitution, so that since that time I have almost forgot what Weariness means. I am never tired either of my Work, either in speaking or traveling. I went to Holland not expecting to teach, but to learn. But God's thoughts were not as my thoughts. I had scarce landed, when I was offered the use of the three English Churches in Roterdam. And the next day I preached in the Episcopal Church, (built by the old Duke of Marlborough) morning and afternoon to a lovely Congregation. I preached in another English Church at Amsterdam, and in a third, at Utrecht; and it was near Utrecht that I preached on Burgomaster Loben, at his County Seat, when I found one of the most agreeable men & the pleasantest Gardens I ever saw. He spoke Latin properly, tho not fluently, for want of more practice: as he had discontinued the use of it, almost ever since he left the University. His Daughter, Miss Loten is an Israelite indeed: full of humble, gentle Love, zealous of Good Works, and a pattern to all the women of fortune in the Province. Peace be with all ye Spirits. I wish my Dear Sally Knox may be just like Miss Loten.

Dear Alleck  

[ torn ]

To  
Mr Alexander Knox  
in  
Londonderry

Bristol  
Sept. 26. 1784

Dear Alleck  

Yours of the Seventh instant found me out yesterday. You may direct your next to London. I am not afraid of your writing too often. I answer, in few or more words, as I have time.  

So much may be said on both sides, that I do not care to determine the Question. I stand neuter. Let the Majority of the Society do as they judge best. It is certainly very heavy incumbrances attend your keeping the present House. If you do sell it, take care none of the Money be wasted, but every shilling of it reserved for the building of a new one. But I know not what House you cou'd take for a pattern. The most soluble one I know in the North of Ireland is that at
Lisburn. I am glad to hear that your Preachers have formed a Circuit about Londonderry, & have hopes that the work of God will now prosper. May it prosper in all your hearts. This is the constant Prayer of

My Dear Alleck,
Yours most affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alexander Knox
in
Londonderry

Bristol
March 19. 1785

Dear Alleck
If his Colleague is now free from actual Sin, then Mr Brown is in the right. If he is not now clear from it, then Mr Rogers is in the right.
The good Providence of God has been very conspicuous for some years in favour of Ireland. The Volunteers have been the occasion of much Good: particularly in supporting lawless violence. I wonder they do not prevent the White boys from lifting up their head again.

On Monday I am to set out from hence; but I do not expect to reach Holyhead before the tenth or eleventh of next Month, about the End of it, you will probably see me at your House: If Sally has forgot me, you must tell her who I am: If I am brought safe to Dublin, you may expect to hear from me again.

As it has pleased God to give you a clear undeniable answer to Prayer, you have good Reason to trust Him for the time to come. Look up! Help while yet you ask is given! Peace be with all your Spirits! I am

Dear Alleck
Yours most affectionately
JWesley

Cork
May 6. 1785

My Dear Alleck
I hope to be at Sligo on Saturday the twenty first instant, on Monday the 23d at Ballyconnell on Wedn. 25th at Kilmore, Thurs. 26 Clones, Sat. 28th Armgh. Mond. Charlemont, Weds. June 1. Derry, Sat. 4th Coleraine. So I allow you a day longer than to any other
place. Indeed I am so straitened for time that I can hardly spend so much of it any where as I could do a few years ago. My Work increases continually, so that I am obliged to shorten my stay almost at every place.

If I live to return to London I will consider what you say, concerning printing the Text copy New Testament alone. I see no objection to it at present, but that it would require a good deal of time: Because I must critically service the whole, & again compare it with the original. Peace be with you all, I am Dear Alleck

Your most affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alexr Knox in
Londonderry

London
Dec. 8. 1785

Dear Alleck

I do not believe that any Fistula is incurable ever without Incision at all. I suppose the late King was near seventy when he told his Physician "I will not be cut: Either cure me without cutting, or I will die." They did then effect a perfect Cure, without any cutting at all. And several years since a young Man came to me, at the return from one of my Journeys & told me "He had used Sir Keneton Digby’s Remedy, set down in the Primitive Physic, & that it had perfectly cured his Fistula in six weeks time." When I mentioned that to Dr. Crommelin (whom I would trust, beyond any other Physician in Ireland) He told me “Sir,” I have myself cured several Fistulas by the same Medicine only I prescribe but half the quantity.

Some years since I was walking with Mr Charles of Rosmede (who I suppose has wiled more houses than most men in the County) when looking on the roof of a House newly built he said “The man who roofed that House wanted either skill or Honesty. For no Roofs end rise above one third of the Breadth.” This Rule I observe in all my Houses. And yet they all turn the rails perfectly well. If therefore ye Builders can’t roof an house in the same manner, so as to turn the Rails, it is plain they have not the skill either of Joseph Charles, or of the English Builders.

“Mr D. is resolved to leave Derry early in the next Summer,” suppose five months hence But who has assured him he shall live five months! Has he received the lease of his Life with God? I think if Mrs D. & he shou’d live till Lady Day, it will be soon enough in all reason to consider that question. Some of St Cyprians Letters are worth translating. I read Mr Bennett’s Life above fifty years ago, &
thought it good, but not very good. Perhaps I may like it better now
Probably this winter I shall begin printing the New Testament. I
am persuaded, Mr. Harvey is a pious man. And he is an ingenious
Writer I never saw the tract you are sending but will read it, if
it comes in my way.

I incline to think your late Illness will prevent your Fits, by
deviating the Humour another way. Peace be with all your Spirits!
I am, Dear Alleck

Ever Yours
JWesley

To

Mr Alexander Knox
in
Londonderry

Aghrim
April 23. 1787

Dear Alleck

You are best able to answer for yourself. In the Letters now be-
fore me I read.

I must be free to say to you, that in my Dealings with Church
people & Methodists, I have met wth better treatment from the
former. I cou’d show you copies wth some letters that past between
Mr Alex Knox & myself, on the subject at the House at Bishop gate,
which I had set to him, just after you left Derry. To bind the bar-
gain, Mrs Knox offered me a Guinea, wch I declined taking, as I
thought Hers & her Son’s word sufficient. Mrs Babington who is
not a Methodist, to whom I set the house afterward behaved as a
Christian & a Gentlewoman.” I can say nothing to this, till you answer
for yourself. I do not suppose he states the matter fairly: but I must
let the matter rest, till I hear from you. Peace be with all your
Spirits!

I am, Dear Alleck

Yours most affectionately
JWesley

To

Mr Alexr Knox
in
Londonderry

Limerick
May 16. 1787

My Dear Alleck

Yours of the 4th instant I received an hour ago. What Mr Darson
wrote concerning you (as well as what he wrote concerning others)
made no great impression upon me. I easily perceived he was too
angry at Letter I had sent him, to judge very clearly of any thing, you do well to send me a circumstancial account of the affairs. If any more be said, I shall now know how to answer.

On Sat. June 2, I hope to see you & my Dear Mrs Knox. As to George & Sally, perhaps they have forgot me. But you, will not easily forget.

Dear Alleck, Yours affectionately
JWesley

To
Mr Alex Knox
in
Londonderry

My Dear Alleck
Tho you are already easy to be convinced, I will tell you my thoughts freely.

1. The man to whom God convinces unawakened sinners of sin is sent of God to preach.

2. The man by whom God justifies the ungodly is sent of God to preach.

3. The man who raises new Societies & increases most of the old ones, is sent of God to preach.

Upon inquiry I find indisputable proofs that all these marks concern in William West. Therefore He is as clearly great of God to preach as I am.

The first time Capt. Walsh came to West Street Chappel, John Harvey preached: He was out of all patience is why, said he, “This fallen man knows neither Grammar, nor Common sense, nor anything else. When he ventured to come once more & see John in the pulpit, he was on moving away, but God stopped him & justified him under that very sermon. I shd not wonder, if God gave to you the same Blessing. (so conformed your wisdom) in hearing William West!

Go, in God’s name & try! Peace be with all your Spirits! I am
Ever yours
JWesley

My Dear Alleck
When you wrote to me concerning the Death of your Brother,
the case seemed so exceeding clear and I so perfectly concurred in Judgment with you, that I thought it needless to add anything on the head. It has long been my first Judgment that as sure as the Lord is living to every man, no man ever died crying for Mercy but he found mercy. Therefore I cannot entertain the least doubt but George is now in Abraham's bosom. And I shou'd not at all wonder if God were to signify it to his Mother, perhaps in some dream or vision of the night. I was exceedingly troubled, said good old Mr Peronet, when my wife died, for fear she was not happy, and I cried mightily to God, that I might know. But instead of shewing Her to me: He shewd me himself. So all his troubles fled away. Your Mother's trouble is certainly Diabolical. Let her resist the Devil, & he will flee from her. If George were capable of grieving for anything now, it would be at his Mother's trouble "Woman, remember the Faith, Remember! Christ died for Thee and Him!"

I pray, remember my kind Love to my Dear Sally, I have one good Eye left, & a little strength: and am

Ever Yours

JWesley

(The following letter in Elmer T. Clark's Collection, was published in Telford's The Letters of John Wesley. The italicized sentences were deleted.)

To Miss (Hanna) Ball
At Mr. Ball's, Lace-man
in High Wycombe

Dec. 24, 1768

My dear Sister:

Nothing can be more certain, than what God is willing to give always whatever he gives once, and that therefore, whatever you experience now, you may enjoy to your life's end. Perhaps one thing designed by an All-wise Providence, in your intercourse with me, was to preserve you from that sin which otherwise might easily beset you. It need not prevail over you any more: watch and pray, and you will not enter into temptation.

Patty Chapman does well, in seeking the most excellent way. But I would not tell her "you must," but you "may be" all-holy. The way is open. Jesus is yours and therefore all the mind which was in Him.

Be the success more or less, never be weary of well-doing. In due time you shall reap, if you faint not. And press on, into the whole image of God. I am

My Dear Sister,

Your affectionate Brother,

J. Wesley
Another "Last Letter" to America

The following Wesley letters were recently discovered in an old safe at St. George's Church in Philadelphia. They were printed in the Spring of 1962 in the small bulletin of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Historical Association. It has long been stated that Wesley's last letter to the United States was written to Ezekiel Cooper on February 1, 1791. Dr. Frederick E. Maser, pastor of St. George's, says that Wesley wrote another letter to America on the same day. It was addressed to William Jessop, a Methodist itinerant.

Near London
February 1st, 1791

My dear Brother,

I am glad to hear that you have recovered your bodily health, and that your sickness has been sanctified to you. It is well that we may profit whether by health or sickness: indeed by everything which our Lord sends.—

A day or two ago Sister Appleby called upon me: She will not want friends who will serve here to the uttermost of their powers. You have great reason to praise God, for that he still continues to work among you at N. York. But it is not to be expected that you should find the "O're whelming Power of saving grace" — as we usually do at the beginning of a work. I am glad to do a little as I can — Indeed I have but dim sight, and little strength. But I work on a little longer, and have the satisfaction to see many who are ready to supply my lack of service. I commend you to Him, in whom you have believed, and am

Your affectioned Friend and Brother
John Wesley

To Matthew Lowes (two letters)
At the Orphan House, New Castle-Upon-Tyne

London
February 26, 1771.

Dear Matthew

I think Dr. Wilson is in the right. You cannot as yet be a travelling Preacher. You must lie by for a year, only preaching now and then, as your strength will permit. But I see no need at all of your quitting the House. Pray let S. Lowes & you keep as near us as you can. I am

Your affectionate Brother
JWesley
Dear Matthew

You are in the right not to undertake more than you are able to perform. Unless it should please God to restore your health and strength, you cannot undertake the work of a travelling Preacher: and must therefore be content, to do what little you can, according to your strength. Wherever you are, encourage all ye believers, To go on to Perfection: And while they are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, to expect the fulfilling of their Desire every moment. I am, with love to S. Lowes,

Dear Matthew,
Your affectionate Brother

JWesley

To a Lady named Rachel

My Dear Sister

As I purpose to spend a night at Manchester, this week after next, I shall have an opportunity of talking with that young woman myself. So I shall not need any other account.

Mr. Megeary is just such a man as we . . . I hope he will meet me at Bristol in two or three weeks. I am now gathering strength everyday. Probably I shall be at Bristol on this day fortnight. I am, with love to Brother and Sister Lowes,

My Dear Rachel

Your Affectionately

JWesley

TO JENNY HILTON “At Mr. Hilton’s Shoemaker in Beverley, Yorkshire”

My Dear Sister

It gives me great pleasure, to hear that you are not yet moved from your steadfastness. And certainly you never need. You need not lose anything you have received; but rather receive more day by day: Take out of his fulness, grace upon grace. Only walk humbly and closely with God! Hang upon Him continually: Let the loving Eye of the soul be always fixed on Him, and simply ask whatever you want.

I think you can speak to me quite freely: Love will constrain you so to do. Sometimes you have “foolish dreams.” But in what kind? Do you mean, wild and incoherent? That is no wonder: it
is a natural consequence of the corruptible Body. But do not you find, if anything ill should present, that you have the power to resist it, even in Sleep? So you tho you may feel a close temptation, yet even then you are Conqueror thro' Him that loved you?

Are you enabled to rejoice ever more? And in everything to give thanks? Are you always happy? Do you experience something like what Mr. de Renty speaks in those words, "I bear about with me an Experimental verity and a fullness of the presence of ye Blessed Trinity?" And are you continually offering up your Soul and Body a living sacrifice to God?

You may direct your next to me in Haverford West, Cross post. You lay me under a Difficulty. When I speak to you alone, I can't use Ceremony. I love you too well. But in superscribing a Letter, I want to be as Civil to you, as if I did not love you at all. Yet I know not how to deny you anything. What would I not do to show you that I am,

My Dear Jenny
Your Affectionate Brother
JWesley