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UNPUBLISHED LETTERS

BY

Bishop Samuel Seabury

AND

Bishop John Skinner



CHURCH MISSIONS PUBLISHING COMPANY
31-45 Church Street, Hartford, Connecticut

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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LETTER
FROM
BISHOP SAMUEL SEABURY
TO
BISHOP JOHN SKINNER

No. 38 Norton Street, London,
Dec. 27th, 1784.

Right Reverend & my very Dear Sir —

Since my arrival in London I have been so taken up with matters of business, which could not be delayed, and with the kind attentions of friends who ought not to be neglected, that though I have daily thought of you, & of my obligations to write to you, yet till now I have not had it fairly in my power to do so. I was willing also to wait a little & see whether any matter worth communicating to you might arise. But nothing of this kind has happened. The business of the Society's missionaries in Connecticut did not come on at their meeting the 17th as I expected & wished, & whether it will be brought forward at their next meeting which will be on the 3rd Friday in January, I can get at present no information. Some think it will not come on at all as a good many of the clergy & some dignified ones, commend the Step that has been taken as a necessary & proper measure. A friend told me, that in a conversation with the Bishop of Lincoln, his Lordship justified the matter without reserve, and said he saw no good reason either civil or ecclesiastical, why my application here was rejected. I believe I shall take my passage for New York in the ship *Triumph*, Capt. Stout, -both the names, will I hope prove happily ominous, -who will sail at the latest the 1st of March. The Master is of my particular acquaintance, a friendly, obliging man & a good Churchman & very anxious to

have the honor of carrying over the Bishop of all America. I pray God he may have a good voyage, not only for his own, but also for the Bishop's sake, for whom you will suppose, I have a great Regard. I must again express my hope that your sermon is printed and that I shall not be disappointed in my expectation of taking out 100 Copies with me to America. Please to draw upon me for the expence, & also for the expence of the Tracts & any other publications you shall think proper to send me. I shall also be glad to have a variety in kind, if not a great number, of every publication; think nothing that relates to the cause of Episcopacy too insignificant, or that can assist in forming & establishing an infant church, too trifling to send to me. Every thing in that way will be of use to me and will save me trouble, and I shall have enough to do with all the help I can get. Besides to have the same Instructions given in a different way, or the same Doctrines inculcated in a different mode, will not lay the foundation of, nor probably produce that intimate and close connection between the Scotch and Connecticut Churches, which I earnestly wish.

Catechetical Instructions particularly I should be glad to receive. For tho' these are too commonly looked upon as matters level to ordinary capacities to compile, yet I'm convinced they require, if not great capacity, yet great attention & judgment & a thorough knowledge of the principles, doctrines & discipline of the primitive Catholic Church. When you have opportunity, you will oblige me much by presenting my most affectionate regards to Bsp Kilgour and Bsp Petrie. While I live, I shall remember & love them. May our gracious God long preserve them & continue their lives so eminently useful to his poor persecuted Church. I regret that I did not make a point of seeing Bsp Rose and waving all ceremony, make myself acquainted with him. Will you, when you

can, make a tender of my Regards to him & endeavor to convince him of the Sincerity & Uprightness of my Intentions. The good clergy who were with us also have a claim upon my Affections & esteem. May they live long, useful to the Church & happy in themselves. Dr. Murray did not keep his own secret, but the day after he had written his Letter, mentioned the matter to Dr. Smith's brother & so the affair got out. Some of my friends heard of it & were vexed. One of them, the Rev. Mr. Vardell, a native of New York, spoke to Dr. Murray about it. The Dr. owned the fact, blamed me for precipitance & for not taking his advice & making use of his influence. I was informed of this the very morning after I arrived here. He knows not that I know anything of the matter, nor shall he from me, tho I have mentioned the matter to two gentlemen because it was really necessary they should know it. How the Dr. came to act so out of Character, I know not. Possibly an over anxious friendship for Dr. Smith has hurried him beyond his usual temper. He has, however sunk himself in the estimation of some who used to think well of him & who can scarce be restrained from showing their resentment tho they know not the particulars of the Drs. Letter. There has been a Convention at New York for ecclesiastical purposes consisting of Clerical & lay members. Dr. Smith was their president. After giving the names of those who were present, he add The Body recommended to the Clergy & Congregations of their Communion in the States represented as above & proposed to hope of the other States not represented, that as soon as they shall have organized or associated themselves in the States to which they respectively belong, agreeable to such rules as they shall think proper, they unite in a general Ecclesiastical Constitution on the following fundamental principles; 1 — That there shall be a general Convention of

the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.
II — *That the Episcopal Church in each state send deputies to the Convention, consisting of Clergy & Laity.*
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Signed by order of the Convention, Wm. Smith D. D.
President.

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S. C. Seabury.



LETTER
FROM
BISHOP JOHN SKINNER
TO
BISHOP ARTHUR PETRIE

The Rt Reverend
Mr. Arthur Petrie
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Rt Revd & Dear Sir —

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*R. R. & Dr Sir Your very affectionate
Brother & humble Serot,
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Aberdeen, Jany 4th, 1785.

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