

**The Works**  
of  
**George Whitefield**

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**Additional Letters**

**Quinta Press**

**2000**

# Quinta Press

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**NEWLY DISCOVERED LETTERS OF  
GEORGE WHITEFIELD, 1745-46**

**EDITED BY JOHN W. CHRISTIE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**O**n his seven visits to America between 1738 and 1770, George Whitefield's "mighty eloquence" influenced a larger proportion of its inhabitants than any other preacher before our own day. Apart from its tremendous religious significance, Whitefield's work was most helpful to several of our colleges—Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and University of Pennsylvania. Perhaps one of its most important incidental achievements was the discovery and development of vital points of unity between the thirteen disparate colonies which were so soon to engage in conflict with the Mother Country. Whatever, therefore, adds to our knowledge of Whitefield is of interest.

Two or three years ago one of his Letter Books was found in Wilmington, Delaware. It was among the books and papers inherited by Miss Rebekah McKay from her ancestor, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Read who was colonial pastor of Old Drawyers Church in Delaware. It contains copies of ninety-two of Whitefield's letters, written between November 27, 1745, and July 21, 1746, on his third and longest visit to America.

Whitefield was a prolific letter writer in the rare intervals granted him of brief respite from preaching as, for instance, when he was on a voyage. At such a time, he, would sometimes write a score of letters. He had these letters copied by a member of his party, often his wife, if she were with him. In a letter dated March 6, 1745, Whitefield wrote, "My dear wife ... is fully

employed in copying my letters.” Hers may have been one of the three or four hands used in the book before us. The originals, after copies had been made, were entrusted to any traveller who happened to be journeying in the direction of the person addressed. The copies were retained until a number sufficient for binding was accumulated. It is highly improbable that any letter in this book is in Whitefield’s handwriting.

Before he died, *Whitefield* edited and printed three volumes of his letters. But there is a notable gap in them. Between *July* 29, 1745, and *August* 26, 1746 there is not a single letter. This caused *Tyerman*, *Whitefield’s* biographer, to write (Vol. 2, page 152), “It is impossible through want of materials to trace the course of Whitefield during the next twelve months,” that is, after September, 1745. It is this gap into which all the letters in our Letter Book fit. In 1769, a year before Whitefield died, Dr Thomas Read became minister at Old Drawyers Church where he remained for more than a quarter of a century while his church became the strongest Presbyterian church in the state. It was only fifteen miles from Bohemia Manor which was the home of the Bayard family. At least two of these Bayards were converts of Whitefield’s. Their stone house is still standing and one can see in it the “Whitefield Room”. In his letter of June 26, 1746, to the Reverend Mr Richardson, he calls it “my headquarters in this Province.” Eleven of the letters in our book, including this one, were written from this place. If this letter book was inadvertently left at Bohemia Manor, we have the explanation both for the gap in the letters as Whitefield published them and for the presence of this volume among Dr Read’s books.

In view of the finding of this book, it is amusing to read in *Tyerman’s* Preface to his two volumes on the Life of George Whitefield, dated October 16, 1876, “Though to say so may savour of vanity, I believe there is now no information concerning Whitefield, of any public importance, which is not contained in the present volumes.”

The year covered was one of the most interesting of Whitefield’s life. He was about thirty-one years old. He had already achieved

a tremendous reputation by his preaching both in Britain and in America. In particular he had ranged from Georgia to Maine in his triumphant preaching tours; and he had founded his Orphan House in Bethesda, Georgia. This last enterprise had left him under a heavy debt.

Whitefield, with his wife, had landed October 26, 1744, at York, Maine. Suffering from exposure and illness, he was cared for by three physicians. Colonel William Pepperell also was particularly attentive. On his recovery Whitefield spent about six months in New England, largely near Boston, preaching and writing pamphlets and sermons for the press. James Habersham, superintendent of the Bethesda Orphan House came to Boston to confer with him. Cape Breton had long been in the possession of the French; and Louisburg, commanding the Canadian and New England coast and the entrance to the St Lawrence, had been fortified. It was a continuing threat not only to British naval vessels, but to all British and colonial fishing and trading ships. A joint attack by naval vessels under Commodore Warren and an army of New Englanders under General Pepperell was being secretly planned. Before accepting this command Pepperell, a devout Christian, consulted Whitefield and had him preach to the soldiers and give them a motto, "Nil Desperandum, Christo Duce." Although Louisburg hitherto had been deemed impregnable, its garrison had been in a state of near mutiny and after a siege of about seven weeks it capitulated on June 17, 1745. Its capture was a remarkable feat, one of the most illustrious in our colonial history. As a reward Pepperell was made a baronet (the first and last native American to receive this honour) and Warren an admiral.

In Britain Bonnie Prince Charlie landed from France six weeks after Louisburg was captured, and gathering Highlanders as he advanced, easily won the Battle of Preston Pans in which the great Christian soldier, Colonel Gardner was killed. Thereafter the young Pretender led his Highlanders as far south as Derby, 127 miles from London. But British armies far stronger than his own were gathering and on December 6, Charles was forced by his advisers to retrace his steps. He had a last gleam of success

on January 17 at Falkirk. But on April 16 at Culloden, his daring adventure came to an end.

While these events were taking place in Canada and Britain, Whitefield and his party had been slowly moving south by land, with preaching by the way. As our series of letters opens he is at Charleston, South Carolina.

## LETTERS

### Letter 1

*Mr William Strahan<sup>1</sup>*

*Dear Mr Strahan,*

*Charlestown November 27<sup>th</sup> 1745.*

ABOUT three weeks ago, by the good Providence of a gracious Redeemer, I and my dear yoke-fellow arrived safe at this place. Since that I had the pleasure of yours dated June 22<sup>nd</sup> and was well pleased with the softness of the style. You may assure yourself I think often of what is due to you than you well can. It is the greatest cross I now have to be any way in debt. I desire to owe no man any thing but love, and at present am enabled to look up to the sovereign LORD of Heaven, because I am embarrassed entirely for others, and not upon my own account; However, blessed be \_\_\_\_ I believe deliverance is at hand. I have sent you a bill of exchange for thirty pounds sterling and purpose, GOD willing, to remit you more very shortly. JESUS has been very good to me since I left my native lands and blessed my poor administrations greatly. He makes even my enemies to be at peace with me—Oh help me to cry Grace! Grace! All is well at *Georgia* and all in quietness here—How long it may continue JESUS only knows. The threatened

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<sup>1</sup> “Mr William Strahan, printer in Wine Office Court Fleet Street” apparently in answer to a mild dun for money Whitefield owed him. “The threatened storm” is the Jacobite invasion of England. Another letter to Mr Strahan on the subject of this debt will be found under date of June 16, 1746. For thirty years Bethesda was the object of Whitefield’s constant solicitude. The shadow of debt contracted for it was ever upon him. He must often have felt as he did on June 26, 1740, when he wrote “I am almost tempted to wish I had never undertaken the Orphan House.”

*Additional Letters*

storm I find is breaking upon *Scotland* and *England* and I suppose ere-long will reach us in *America*. May the LORD help all my dear friends to fly for shelter to a dear Redeemer's wounds. I am much distressed for them and am enabled to wrestle with the LORD on their behalf. This is my comfort, JESUS reigneth and he will cause all things to work together for the good of those that love Him. To his tender mercy do I commit you and with hearty salutations from me and mine, I subscribe myself, dear Mr *Straham*,

Your most affectionate obliged Friend and  
Servant,  
*G Whitefield*

**Letter 2**

*To Mr John Sims*<sup>2</sup>

*My very dear Man,* *Charlestown November 30th 1745.*

I HAVE wrote to you several times in my journey from the northward hither but have received no letter from you, of a late date but that sent by Mr *Houlton* giving me an account of letters from Mr *Harris* &c. None of these are come to hand; but it is no wonder in this war-time—I suppose ere now *England's* fate is determined in respect to the late civil commotions—I pray the LORD to support all our dear friends every where and enable them to put their whole trust and confidence in him. His wounds and precious blood is a sure asylum and place of refuge in every time of trouble—here is my only confidence if the storm should break over into these parts. Blessed be the name of our GOD, there is yet free liberty for preaching the

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<sup>2</sup> Mr John Sims is John Syms. In Britain he had been Whitefield's travelling companion, secretary, and confidential friend. "The late civil commotions" are due to the Jacobite invasion. "I wish you had paid the lawyer." In June 1744 just before Whitefield sailed for America he was attacked and beaten while in bed in Plymouth by a man who pretended to be his friend. Doubtless the lawyer referred to was employed in connection with that affair. The debt referred to in the postscript is the subject of a letter on June 16 to Mr Rutt and on June 17 to Mr Smith. Mr Syms had become a Moravian and was refusing to continue to be Whitefield's bookkeeper and factotum. Hence the possible transfer of his books to Mr Strahan.

Everlasting Gospel—The door was open every where from the northward, and I am enabled to preach as usual in this town, twice a day—GOD makes, my enemies to be at peace with me—Oh Grace! Grace! My outward embarrassments are my greatest cross—JESUS, I trust is about to deliver me out of them—with the ship that brings this, I have sent Mr *Straham* a bill of exchange for thirty pounds and intend to send very shortly enough to make them up a hundred. Particular orders you will have in my next about the disposal of it—I wish you had paid the lawyer immediately when you left *Plymouth*—But what is past can not be recalled—Will you be pleased to send me a short sketch of my accounts, that I may know how my affairs stand—I am resolved to contract expenses every way till I can say I owe no man any thing but love—How mistaken is the world in the opinion it forms of my being rich? I am embarrassed, but blessed be GOD it is for others, not for myself. Our LORD will make a way to escape. Friends are very kind to me here, and JESUS, I believe, is working upon some souls by his Grace. On *Monday*, GOD willing, I go to *Bethesda* from whence, I returned last week. I shall lessen the family very much; but if any friends should be driven from *England* they will there find a hearty welcome. Who can tell what the next year will bring forth? I pity poor souls that have not fled to the Lamb for refuge. You will remember us to all dear very dear friends. We pray for you daily without ceasing. May our prayers enter into the ears of the *Lord* of Sabaoth! I believe they will for the sake of JESUS our Great High Priest in whom I subscribe myself, my very dear man,

Your most affectionate friend, brother and  
servant,

*G Whitefield.*

*P.S.* I wish Brother Smith would take up his bond and Mr *Rutt* have the money. If you should be settled for yourself and not do my business would it be convenient to let Mr *Straham* have my books sent to him? But perhaps ere now all is in confusion among our dear countrymen! May JESUS shelter them. Amen and Amen.



### **Letter 3**

*To Mr Thomas Noble<sup>3</sup>*

*My very dear, dear Brother Noble, Charlestown November 30, 1745.*

I HAVE now only time to tell you, that JESUS is love, and that He is pleased to bless me daily—I hope to return northward early in the spring. I have contracted my family expenses, and am in a likely way of getting rid of my embarrassments. At present I am obliged to draw on you for Thirty Pounds Sterling in favour of Mr *Hazard*, for value received of Messrs *Harris* and *Habersham*. It may be, I may draw for so much more—GOD willing I shall pay you when I see you. I hope all is well at *York*. Our tender, tender love awaits all the happy followers of the ever blessed Lamb of GOD. His wounds will be sure refuge 'till the tyranny of our enemies be overpast—Oh that we may be cheerful and happy in him our glorious and compassionate high priest. For his great name's sake, I am, very dear Man,

Yours most affectionately

GW

### **Letter 4**

*To Mr Hugh Bryan<sup>4</sup>*

*Dear Sir,*

*Bethesda December, 16th 1745.*

ON Saturday I received your kind letter and present for both—which you have my hearty thanks. I am glad you and Mrs *Bryan* intend us a visit. We shall be very proud of seeing

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Noble of New York, long a friend and financial helper died shortly after this date. Whitefield owed him a considerable sum and was evidently disappointed that Noble left him no legacy. (See letter to Smith of Boston, May 21, 1746, and letters to Noble's executor, Horsfield, dated May 21 and May 29, 1746).

<sup>4</sup> Hugh Bryan of Good Hope and his brother Jonathan of Pon Pon, South Carolina both came under the influence of Whitefield as early as 1740. Whitefield had bought from Hugh Bryan 21 cows, 21 calves, a bull, two horses, a mare, a colt and 10 sows, and Bryan had contributed to Bethesda a canoe, eleven barrels of rice, five barrels of beef and six sheep. Hugh Bryan and his wife appear to have been very pious, but rather weak-minded and not very well informed, and Whitefield doubtless overrated them. In at least two instances Hugh's actions were very curious (see Howe's "History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina", Volume I, pp.

you at *Bethesda*. Blessed be GOD he makes it a *Bethesda*. I hope the LORD GOD of the *Hebrews*, the Father of Mercies and GOD of all consolations, hath met us here. I rejoice if he has been pleased to bless my poor labours at the Indian land. Oh that impressions may abide and a people be made willing in the days of GOD's power. Dear sir, let me entreat you to exert yourself for CHRIST.—Up and be doing and the LORD will be with you. If blunders frequent blunders ought to make a person silent, I am sure I ought to be dumb and open my mouth no more— But I do not find that Peter was silent though with oaths and curses he had denied his LORD. No he rather preached the more—the sense of forgiving love warmed his heart and made him more zealous in the cause of his blessed Master. Do you go and do likewise. You will excuse this freedom. I write out of the fullness of my heart. I believe Satan wants to keep you down. May JESUS bruise him under your feet! Our prayers are for you night and day. We beg yours in return and with hearty love and thanks. I subscribe myself, dear Sir,

Yours affectionately in CHRIST JESUS,

GW

## Letter 5

*To Mr Jonathan Bryan*<sup>5</sup>

*Very dear sir,*

*Bethesda, December 16th 1745.*

**G**RATITUDE constrains me to send you a line of thanks for your last as well as other former favours. I am sorry the

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230-247 or Tracy's "Great Awakening", chapter 6). Yet Mr Bryan seems not to have lost the confidence of men of judgement and piety. He saw his error, and almost madness, quickly and his subsequent life showed him to be a true servant of God. In this letter Whitefield is urging him not to let his remorse silence him.

<sup>5</sup> The expression of gratitude to Jonathan Bryan for supplies he had sent to Bethesda by the hand of some Negroes who had been delayed by bad weather. Toward the end of the letter Whitefield is persuading him to bring a variety of supplies to Bethesda when he comes in his "Pettiaugur"—a boat made by widening a large canoe by cutting it in two lengthwise and inserting a plank between the halves. This informal and warm-hearted appeal must have been heeded.

negroes have been detained so long; but I find Bob lost his way and narrowly escaped striking the breakers. JESUS had mercy on us and brought our things safe to *Bethesda*. Blessed be GOD it is made more pleasant to me than before. I trust the LORD hath said “destroy it not” for a blessing is in it. As it is a public trust I think I am obliged in conscience to keep it up and I believe it may now be done with a little change. Our supplies from the Indian Land will be of great-service. Good measure pressed down and running over. May JESUS return into your bosoms! I wish the Pease had been sent. Could my dear *Jonathan* when he comes with our other friends whom we long to see, bring some in the *Pettiaugur*? We shall want them much as—likewise some butter; could I get 3 or 4 or 6 sheep? I would willingly pay for them in a short season. We have proper pasture for them. I should be glad also if the chaise and harness could be brought. Our friends are going to mend the roads, and I trust *Bethesda* will yet lift up its drooping head. JESUS is with and blesses us. We are coming into a little order. Hoping to see you and yours at furthest in the CHRISTMAS week and sending most cordial salutations for my dear wife, I subscribe myself,

Ever yours, whilst

GW

Would you be pleased to enquire if there is not left at the house a coarse towel marked with an H, an earthen little jug in which we took sugar, and a basket wherein we took provision when we left *Bethesda*? They are Mr *H\_\_\_\_\_ms* and he has wrote to me about them. Have you any salt to spare or salted pork? We want both as also a little ground corn or rice, and a little shoemaker’s thread or flax. I make no apology for this. I know you count it an honour and privilege to do all you can for Jesus’ cause, in which I trust, as you lately observed, we are all embarked. Oh that I may begin to do something for him who has done and suffered so much for me. Adieu! May Jesus fill your soul. Our cordial respects to all. We have a house that will hold 100 and hearts that will hold 10,000. I would have our friends come to *Bethesda* directly. The Lord bring you safe.

**Letter 6**

*To Mr Hutson<sup>6</sup>*

*Dear Mr Hutson,*

*Bethesda, December 16th 1745.*

**T**HIS comes with our hearty thanks for your kind present. It was very acceptable and you know who will reward you. I am sorry the negroes have made so long a voyage, but Bob lost his way and did not reach *Bethesda* till *Saturday*. I sent to Mr *Jones* before they came and got liberty for their passage by both now and at any other time. I find there will be no notice taken of negroes at all and therefore, if you think proper, as you once said, to give me a negro, I will venture to keep him, and if he should be seized it is but for me to buy him again. I leave it to you to do as you find in your heart. Let me have a sober one. I hope this will find your dear wife safe in bed and madam *Woodward* recovered. We pray for you without ceasing. May JESUS enable us all to walk in our respective houses and places with a perfect heart! Blessed be his Name. He makes *Bethesda* very pleasant to me and mine. We are happy in JESUS and happy in one another. We send you and yours and Mr *Barber* our most cordial salutations and I am dear Sir.

Your truly affectionate friend, brother and  
willing servant for JESUS' sake,

GW

Brethren pray for us. Upon second thoughts you may defer sending the negro till I talk further about it.

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<sup>6</sup> Mr Hutson was a young Englishman who fled from home because he disliked the law for which he had been trained. As a member of a company of actors in New York he heard Whitefield preach, was converted and quit the stage. Coming to Charleston and wandering about with no means of support he attracted the attention of Hugh Bryan who took him on to be a tutor in his family. It is not known when or where he studied theology but Whitefield had said he intended to make a preacher of him, and his first preaching as a licentiate was done at the Orphan House. On May 20, 1743, he was called to be the pastor of the Bryans in the Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Church in the "Indian Land" which was in the vicinity of Pocotaligo, where he served for 18 years until his death. (Howe, page 248.) Hutson's offer of a "Negroe" to Whitefield is interesting because at this time it was not lawful to have slaves in Georgia. Hutson of course lived in South Carolina.

**Letter 7**

*To Mr Jonathan Barber<sup>7</sup>*

*Bethesda, December 16th 1745.*

**A**CCEPT a few loving lines. JESUS makes *Bethesda* more pleasant to me than before and I trust there is yet a blessing in it. I trust he enables you to wait upon him, and if so you shall hear a voice behind you saying this is the way walk it. Perhaps I may see you about New Year's Day or about the beginning of *January*. GOD willing, I shall return to *Bethesda* again. We begin to be in a little order and hope to mend every day. We remember you and yours before the LORD continually. We wish you and yours the best of blessings. Remember us in return. Salute all dear friends most cordially and believe me to be my dear man

Yours most affectionately in JESUS,

GW

**Letter 8**

*Dear Sir,*

*Bethesda, January 16th 1745.*

**I**RECEIVED your letter and thank you for your advice. I intend to follow it. But as I would willingly let you see what I write to the commissary before I send it, I think it proper to defer any further prosecution of this affair till I have the pleasure of conversing with you at *Charles Town*. In the mean while I shall be very easy and am, dear sir,

Your very humble servant,

GW

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<sup>7</sup> In 1740 Whitefield took Jonathan Barber, a young Long Island minister, and his wife down to Bethesda where Barber and Habersham became superintendents. At the time of this letter Barber had become the settled pastor of a Baptist church in Charleston.

<sup>8</sup> This letter is not addressed, but letter 9 following implies that it was intended for Whitefield's lawyer in Charleston, Mr Andrew Rutledge. Undoubtedly Whitefield's appeal in his contention with Alexander Garden is the matter referred to.

**Letter 9**

*Revd. and very dear Sir,* *Bethesda, January 16th 1745/6.*

**I** THANK you for your two kind letters—you will see what I have wrote to Mr *Rutledge*—nothing can be done to purpose. I believe till I come to Town—perhaps this affair may bring me sooner than I designed. All things shall turn out for the furtherance of the Gospel. If any ship be bound for *London*, I wish you would be pleased to write a line to Mr *Sims* desiring him to have an attested account of what the lawyer in Iron-monger Lane did for me on the account of the appeal. I have not time to write myself because Mr *Periam* fears Comer will be gone. Our LORD makes *Bethesda* very delightful to me, my dear yoke-fellow joins in sending most cordial respects to you and yours with Rev. and very dear Sir

Yours &c.,

GW

**Letter 10**

*To the Rev. Mr Smith*

*My very dear Man,*<sup>10</sup> *Bethesda, January 16th 1745/6.*

ACCEPT a few hasty lines of thanks for your kind letter and all past favours. I do not fail mentioning them before the LORD day by day. I know you do for me to, nay perhaps beyond your power. I accept it with all gratitude, because it is done out of love to JESUS. Blessed be his name for giving you such a turn of heart. I rejoice in the prospect of the day when I shall see you presented blameless before the Lamb. Courage, my dear man, courage. He that cometh will come, and will not tarry—Oh may you always hear his small still voice whispering love till you hear the Last Trump calling you to judgement. But I must

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<sup>9</sup> Rev. Joseph Smith was pastor in Charleston and a strong supporter of Whitefield's.

<sup>10</sup> This letter is addressed to “my very dear man”—probably James Habersham who had given up a post at Bethesda in 1744 to become a merchant in Savannah. He became President of the Royal Council of Georgia in 1769. Whitefield in his will refers to him as “dear first fellow labourer and faithful invariable friend.”

have done, lest I lose the opportunity of sending by *Comer*. If he returns be pleased to send me a small case of Madera, a little molasses, and two gallons of painting oil—I hope Mr *Burnette* will make the windows. *Bethesda* is made very pleasant to me—I trust it will yet take root downwards and bear fruit upwards. Our joint cordial respects attend you and yours. That you maybe enabled to serve the LORD without distraction is the hearty prayer of

Yours &c.,

GW.

## Letter 11

*To Johony Syms*<sup>11</sup>

*My very dear Man,*

*Abercorn, March 12, 1745/6.*

I HAVE now by me several of your letters of different dates in which have led me nearer to Him who is our wonderful Counsellor and whose assistance I have asked that I may answer yours accordingly to his pure and holy will—The divisions at the Tabernacle and elsewhere by no means surprise me—They might easily be foreseen long ago. The fire lay under the embers and near ready to break out before I left *England* as far as I can judge dear Brothers *Cennick, Hammond, Pugh, Godwin and Cudworth* are verging very much towards what may properly be called at least *Speculative Antinomianism*. It will be no wonder if many of the young ones slip into what is worse; I mean *Practical Antinomianism* and turn in short time *Ranters*. This was what happened about a hundred years ago and Satan seems to be permitted to sift the Church in like manner now. However, JESUS is Head of his Church and will bring about his great and all-wise designs, in spite of the Tabernacle.

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<sup>11</sup> This letter was written from Abercorn about a dozen miles up the Savannah River to Mr Syms. It deals with the difficulties at the Tabernacle in London.

**Letter 12**

*The Rev. Mr Prince*<sup>12</sup>

*Revd and very dear sir,* *Charles-town, April 24th 1746.*

**H**EARING that Mr *Emory* intends shortly for *Boston* I take this opportunity of informing you that our LORD has been pleased greatly to bless me several ways in these southern parts—The Orphan-house affairs are settled, and put in such a way that I hope it will hereafter be supported without much care trouble or expense—The particulars of its present situation you will have, in a little tract I have got for the press when it shall please GOD to bring me to *Philadelphia*. In the mean while I have sent you an original of the audit of the Orphan house accounts—You may show it to what Friends you please, only let it not be published till you hear whether I am arrived at *Philadelphia* or taken by the Enemy—The summer season being so far advanced, I think it most advisable to go by water and so return to the southward when the weather is cooler—My dear wife has been very ill—Blessed be GOD she is now better; but dares not stay here in the heat of summer—All Friends think it would kill her. She will therefore come with me and in the mean while joins in sending most cordial salutations to you and yours and all our dear very dear *Boston* friends—I find matters have been misrepresented to you from *Philadelphia*. You may assure yourself I have not joined with the Moravians against Mr *Tennent*; but have acted as I believe you yourself would, had you been in my circumstances—Particulars you may know at a proper season. I am obliged to the Revd Doctor *Coleman* for his kind remembrance of me and mine—We send him our most hearty thanks and most heartily salute all the other dear ministers and friends who were not ashamed to own a poor unworthy minister of JESUS CHRIST. Blessed be his holy name. He yet keeps me happy and causes His word to run and be glorified. I came from *Georgia* last week, and preach here twice to great congregations every day—My labours are rather more acceptable here than ever—At *Savannah* affairs have had a strange turn in my favour—I am

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<sup>12</sup> Rev. Thomas Prince, Jr, was pastor in Boston and the publisher of “The Christian History.”



ashamed of doing no more for that blessed Master who is daily loading me with such surprising benefits—You will not fail to pray for me that JESUS may give me a sound and a true Christian practice—Antinomianism spreads apace in Old *England*. I hope the sermons I have got ready for the press will be blessed to put some stop to it—I have also wrote the other part of my life and my third letter to the Bishops which I shall bring with me—I expect to sail with Captain *Grant* in a few days—I have much business in hand and therefore must hasten, though with regret, to subscribe myself, reverend and very dear sir,

Your most obliged affectionate though  
unworthy friend Brother and Servant in  
JESUS CHRIST

GW

### Letter 13

*The Revd Mr Gustard*

*On board the Charlestown Captain Grant bound from South  
Carolina to Philadelphia,*

*Reverend and very dear Mr Gustard,* *May 1st 1746*

YESTERDAY as I was upon deck a young gentleman who said he was your kinsman informed me that he was about to sail for *Scotland* in a few days—My heart rejoiced at the information and I now sit down to write you a few lines—The Great Searcher of hearts only knows what I have felt for my dear very dear Scotch friends ever since the troublesome times began—Their trials have been mine, and I have been in some measure enabled both in public and private to lay their case before our all glorious and compassionate high-priest—Glory be to his great name that the storm is in any measure abated; though I suppose we dare not say it is entirely blown over—I hope the followers of the dear Lamb of GOD have found these trying times exceeding beneficial to their souls—The dear Colonel *Gardiner*—I find went gallantly home,—I pity and pray for his sorrowful worthy

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<sup>13</sup> The Rev. Mr Gustard and the Mr Webster mentioned in this letter are two of the ministers Whitefield heard preach with satisfaction in Edinburgh. The burden of this note is the request to deliver the letter enclosed to Lady Gardiner.

relict and beg you would be pleased to send her the enclosed if she be yet in the land of the living—I am now once more going upon the mighty waters and propose GOD willing, to return this way in the Fall—My affairs in *Georgia* blessed be GOD are pretty well settled and a door opened for preaching the Everlasting Gospel for fourteen hundred miles—I believe I shall visit some of the neighbouring Islands before I see *Europe*—Our Lord is pleased to bless me with much success and to make even mine enemies in divers places to be at peace with me—I am amazed more and more at his free unmerited love, and find my soul continually springing with renewed desires to promote his glory and the salvation of precious and immortal souls—I hope you reverend sir, the dear Mr *Webster* and your other worthy brethren meet with much success—I hope my most cordial respects will find acceptance with them and all my old friends—My dear wife joins with me in sending hearty love to you and yours, and begging a continued interest in your prayers I subscribe myself, very reverend and dear sir,

Your most affectionate, though unworthy  
younger brother and servant in JESUS CHRIST,

GW

## Letter 14

*To the Lady Gardiner*

*On board the Charles-town bound from South-Carolina  
Honoured Madam, to Philadelphia, May 1st 1746*

**H**OW shall I give vent to my heart? How shall I write a word  
in season to a Lady in your circumstances? Will you give

<sup>14</sup> This is a letter of condolence to Lady Gardiner. Colonel James Gardiner, born in Linlithgowshire, the son of a captain in the British Army, was himself a soldier. He served on the Continent in several campaigns, notably under Marlborough at Ramilles where he was severely wounded. After a careless and wild youth he was converted in 1719 and became a most earnest Christian, always and everywhere bearing testimony to his Saviour's love. He was married in 1726 to Lady Frances, daughter of the Earl of Buchan. Whitefield met Lady Frances on his visit to Scotland in 1742 and thereafter corresponded with her and with her husband. So great was Colonel Gardiner's admiration of Whitefield that he once wrote, "I would rather be the persecuted, despised Whitefield than be the