

Mention of the Medications "

So

Dr. Stanhouse  
at Northampton

Sir,

It is not easy to express the Satisfaction I received from your agreeable & useful Conversation this afternoon. I rejoice to find, that there are Gentlemen of Genius, Learning, & Piety, who dare profess a supreme Value for the Scriptures, & are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. I congratulate you, dear Sir, on this Occasion; & can not but look on a Mind so principled & a Heart so disposed, as a very choice & distinguishing Part of your Happiness. Was I to frame a Wish for the dearest & most valuable Friend on Earth, I would earnestly desire, that He might grow daily in this Grace, & increase in the Knowledge of our LORD & Saviour JESUS CHRIST. And when my Son ever leaves to assure you, that this is my unfeigned Wish for Dr. Stoughton, it only transcribes what is deeply written on my Heart.

This brings the Dedication & the Preface, which are to introduce a little Essay, entitled Meditations among the Tombs, & Reflections on a Flower Garden, in two Letters to a Lady. I hope, Sir, in consequence of your kind Promise, you will please to peruse them with the same in your Hand. The Severity of the Critick & the Kindness of the Friend, in this case, will be inseparable. — The Evangelical Strain, I believe, must be preserved. Because otherwise the introductory Thoughts will not harmonize with the subsequent; the Perch will be unsuitable to the Building. — But if you perceive any Manner of Expression, any Quaintness of Sentiment, or any other Improp-

erty & Inelegance: I shall acknowledge it as a very singular Favour, if you will be so good as to discover & correct such Blemishes.

I have the Honour to subscribe myself your Obedient Servant, & am certain, your affectionate regards for the most excellent Religion, will incline you to be concerned for the success of such an Attempt, & therefore to contribute to it success. Call by whatever your Amusements upon these small Part & by speaking of the Works (as far as I shall come abroad) with that Order which is natural to the Penman, & will be so greatly rewarded by this new Discoverer in Letters, who is,

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Your most Obedt. Servt.  
Sam<sup>l</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Serd

Sam<sup>l</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Serd

Boston.  
Novem<sup>r</sup>. 16.  
1745.

Received of  
Sam<sup>l</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Serd  
Nov. 16. 1745.

Sir,

It is not easy to express the Satisfaction I received from your agreeable & useful Conversation this afternoon. I rejoice to find that there are Gentlemen of Genius, Learning, & Politeness, who dare profess a supreme Value for the Scriptures, & are not ashamed of the Cross of Christ. I congratulate you, dear Sir, on this occasion; & can not but look on a Mind so principled, & a heart so disposed, as a very choice & distinguishing Part of your Happiness. Was I to frame a Wish or the dearest & most valuable Friend on Earth, I woud(sic) earnestly desire, that he might grow daily in this Grace, & encrease in the Knowledge of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ. And when my Pen begs leave to assure you, that this is my unfeigned Wish for Dr. Stonhouse, it only transcribes what is deeply written on my Heart.

This brings the Dedication & the Preface, which are to introduce a little Essay, entitled Meditations among the Tombs, & Reflections on a Flower Garden, in two Letters to a Lady. I hope, Sir, in consequence of your kind Promise, you will please to peruse them with the File in your Hand. The Severity of the Critick, & the Kindness of the Friend, in this case, will be inseperable. - The Evangelical Strain, I believe, must be preserved: because otherwise the introductory Thoughts will not harmonize with the subsequent; the Porch will be unsuitable to the Building. - But if you perceive any Meanness of Expression, any Quaintness of Sentiment, or any other Impropriety & Inelegance: I shall acknowledge it as a very singular Favour, if you will be so good as to discover & correct such Blemishes.

I hope, Dr, my End in venturing to publish is an hearty Desire to serve, in some little Degree, the Interests of Christianity, by endeavouring to set some of its most important Truths in a Light, that may both entertain & edify. As I profess this View, I am certain, your affectionate Regard for the most excellent Religion imaginable will incline you to be concerned for the Issue of such an Attempt; & therefore to contribute to its success, both by bestowing your Animadversions upon these small Parts, & by speaking of the Whole (when I shall come abroad) with all that Candor which is natural to the Christian, & will be so greatly needed by this new Adventurer in Letters, who is,

<sup>r</sup>  
Weston, Novem. 16. 1745.

Dr Sr,  
your most obliged humble Servt

To Dr Stonhouse at  
Northampton.

Ja<sup>s</sup>. Hervey

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James Hervey (1714-1758) English devotional writer, curate of Biddeford, and known chiefly as the author of "Meditations Among the Tombs" (1746-7).

Sir James Stonhouse (1716-1795), first a physician, then a divine, practiced for twenty years in Northampton, where Akenside tried to displace him, but unsuccessfully. He became a convert, and was ordained in 1749. He was a close friend of James Hervey, Philip Doddridge, and George Whitefield.

(Collection of Captain F. L. Pleadwell)

Pardon my Neglect in not writing punctually at the Time agreed on. I hope this Letter will not come too late for your Purpose. I enquired of Mr Erskine where his half Books were made. His Answer was, In Suffolk Street near the Foot of the Hay Market by Mr Gale. I have not heard from Biddeford since you left us. My Father has been tolerably easy to day, tho' most grievously bad the preceeding Part of the Week. His Disorder id flattering; now gives us Hopes, anon leaves us nothing but Fears. We expect to see Mr Robson very soon, & to enjoy as much of his Company as he can possibly spare from Miss Peggy & her Mama. A Pleasure this, desired by our whole Family, but by none more sincerely, by none more earnestly than by Dr Sir

The Revd Mr Robson  
to be left at Mr Hervey's  
in Miles's Lane London

yr affectinate Friend & obliged  
humb servt

J. Hervey

Our Family desire you to accept their best Compliments.

May 2. 1741.  
Weston.

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Mr Hervey was born at Hardingstone, a village about a mile from Northampton, England, on Feb. 26, 1713-14. His father, who was minister at Collingtree, sent him to the free grammar school at Northampton, and next to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he took his bachelor's degree, and had a small exhibition. In 1736 he became curate to his father, and next at Dummer, in Hampshire; from whence he went to Biddeford, in Devonshire, where he continued about five years, and was much beloved by the parishioners. At this place he wrote his celebrated 'Meditations among the Tombs', and 'Reflections in a Flower-Garden'. In 1745 he returned to Northamptonshire, and officiated as curate to his father, who was now rector of Weston-Favel, and whom he succeeded in that living and in Collingtree, in 1752; on which occasion he took his master's degree at Cambridge. His principles were Calvinistic, but his piety was of the most cheerful and useful description. He died on Christmas Day, 1758.