

**LETTERS TO CHRISTIAN
BRETHREN, AT ST. DAVID'S
COLLEGE, LAMPETER**

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Letters to Christian brethren, at St. David's College, Lampeter by Henry James Prince

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HENRY JAMES PRINCE

**LETTERS TO CHRISTIAN
BRETHREN, AT ST. DAVID'S
COLLEGE, LAMPETER**

LETTERS

ADDRESSED BY

THE REV. HENRY JAMES PRINCE,

TO HIS

Christian Brethren,

AT

ST. DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER.

SECOND EDITION.



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P R E F A C E.

THE persons to whom the following Letters were addressed having desired to obtain copies of them in print, it has appeared to the writer expedient to offer, in a preface, some few remarks, mentioning the relation in which he stood to the parties he addressed.

The writer of the Letters alluded to entered St. David's College in March, 1836. Having been taught the value of his own soul, he was earnestly solicitous for the salvation of the souls of others; and under a deep persuasion of the dreadful misery of man whilst without an experimental acquaintance with a crucified Redeemer; and with the heartfelt conviction of the blessedness of every soul that truly knoweth Jesus, he was led to speak to his fellow students of Christ and Him crucified, and to exhort them to flee from the wrath to come, and to seek an interest in His most precious death. A few were, in consequence, "almost persuaded to be Christians;" but these having been won by the persuasible words of man's wisdom rather than by the demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*—albeit, they received the word with joy, and sprang up quickly,—yet, having no root in themselves, in time of trial fell away.†

The bread cast upon the face of the waters, however, was found after many days.‡ From among the students, *the Lord* at length called out a "people for his name,"—a "little flock," and yet, comparatively

* 1 Cor. 2 4. † Luke 8 12. ‡ Ecclesiastes 11. 1.

not a little one,—who received the seed on good ground, even an honest and good heart, and who, having heard the word, kept it, and brought forth fruit *with patience*;* thus proving that their faith stood not “in the wisdom of men, but in the *power of God.*” †

The Lord was pleased to employ the writer of the following Letters to edify these souls, and to direct them unto Jesus. Many a sweet meeting have they had together. Often has the Lord himself “stood in the midst,” and diffused the sweet savour of His dear name among them, even as “ointment poured forth.” ‡ They have watched and they have prayed together; they have sorrowed and they have rejoiced together: and from this sweet fellowship arose a love so like the love of Jesus, and a tie so tender, yet so true, that they became as *one*. And so indeed they were *one body* having but *one soul* within it. §

After the writer's departure from College, his affection and concern for the dear brethren he left there induced him, in dependence upon God, to pen the first of the following Letters. This he sent them, and they having expressed themselves profited thereby, he, at a later period, produced the second, and, under the permission of God, sent that to them also. The other two were written to two of the brethren, at a later period.

Having re-perused these Letters prior to their being sent to the press, the writer cannot forbear expressing his genuine conviction, that it is owing to the fond affection of his dear brethren for himself, rather than to any intrinsic value in the letters themselves, that they are so desirous to have them printed. But as they have not proceeded in their purpose without waiting upon God, both for permission and direction, he does not

* Luke 8. 15. † 1 Cor. 2. 5. ‡ Cant. 1. 2. § Eph. 4. 3, 4.

feel himself at liberty to interfere. He trusts that no enlightened person will feel offended at their opening with the apostolic benediction: it was not, God knoweth, from any assumption of either apostolic authority or dignity that he was led to use this "form of sound words," but simply because they conveyed so fully the feelings of his heart. He therefore used them just as persons are accustomed to employ Scripture phraseology to clothe those ideas which they could not so happily convey in other words.

The writer believes, that if any apology be needed for suffering these Letters to appear in print, it may be found in the foregoing observations. He takes the opportunity now afforded him, to assure his beloved brethren, once more, of his heartfelt and unabated affection for them in the bowels of Christ Jesus, and to entreat them yet again to lay aside every weight, and that sin [unbelief] which doth so easily beset them, and to run *with patience* the race that is set before them, looking unto Jesus.* He affectionately exhorts them by the remembrance of those solemn engagements with which, in the presence of each other, they have so often pledged themselves to God; as well as by the present blessedness of that dear brother who is now before the throne, to give their hearts *up wholly, entirely, unreservedly to God*; and he beseeches them, whilst traversing this vale of misery and tears, so to let *faith* add vigour to their *hope*, that, passing the remotest boundaries of time and sense, it happily may rest upon the spot where "Time shall be no more," and where, at length, the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and

* Heb. 12. 1.

be their God ; when *God* (for He will not employ an *angel* to perform it) shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain ; for the *former things* shall have passed away.*

Once more he commends them to the care and keeping of Him who loved them, and gave Himself for them, and who has washed them from their sins in His own blood, even Jesus. To Him be glory and dominion now and for ever. Amen.

H. J. P.

Charlinch Rectory, January, 1841.

* Rev. II. 3, 4. and I. 5.

IN sending the accompanying Letters to the press, the writer desires to make a few remarks upon the two which have been added to those contained in the First Edition. The *former* of them was addressed to a person in a *particular state* of experience : and has respect entirely to the matter of *Justification*. To one who may never have been in *that state*, it will perhaps seem almost to deny the necessity of good works ; when properly understood, however, it has no such tendency in reality ; it was not so understood by the party addressed ; nor will it be by any who have been in that exercise of soul to which it is particularly adapted.

The *latter* has been published not without some hesitation on the part of the writer, to himself it appeared more fine than edifying, and had he obeyed his own wishes rather than his friends it would not have appeared.

H. J. P.

Charlinch, June 24th, 1841.

LETTER I.

TO THE "LITTLE FLOCK" ABIDING BENEATH THE SHADOW OF
THE ALMIGHTY AT LAMPETER, FROM THEIR EVER-LOVING
BROTHER AND FAITHFUL SERVANT IN THE LORD,
HENRY JAMES PRINCE,

My dearly beloved Brethren,

Grace be multiplied to you, and peace from God the
Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

At this interesting season of your return to College, my own heart once more turns towards Lampeter, and the recollection of our former happy meetings and fraternal union draws forth the desires of my soul in behalf of the "little flock" assembled at St. David's College. But, though absent in body, my beloved brethren, I am present in spirit; and, believe me, even now my affection flows forth warmly towards you, and I bear you all upon my heart before the throne of God. Indeed, beloved, I do feel bound to give thanks unto God for His goodness towards you during the vacation. I know that for most of you He certainly has done much; you have been kept from the snares of the world, and have been enabled to persevere in a steadfast resolution to seek the Lord with the whole heart; and though you may have been allowed to feel your own weakness and insufficiency, and have been taught some painful and humbling lessons, yet, my dear brethren I am sure you can testify to the faithfulness of God in being a help to you in time of need, and "a strong hold in the day of trouble."