

do well to drop his paltry prosecutions and yet attend to it—yet send for and hear me. Every age has given proof of the intolerance of installed power. It would be worthy of the present to rise above it—worthy of the conqueror of Napoleon to take the lead in liberality: at this moment he can do more than any man that ever existed: at this moment Britain may become mistress of the world, merely by wise colonial policy, and without again drawing a sword. From this moment she may pine and fall to pieces. How vast then is the responsibility of her present rulers!

I sent you yesterday plans for the improvement of Edinburgh, merely to shew how I have employed leisure time; but I assure you it would give me pleasure to have more important matters to think of; and should the Duke of Wellington and you incline, that may be speedily. He shall have a copy of this letter, and, *unheard*, you shall have no further trouble from me.—Your obedient servant,

ROBT. GOURLAY.

*Sir George Murray.*

No. 9.

2, Bridge Street, Leith, September 30th, 1829.

SIR—So little did I know of you beyond being secretary of state, when addressing you last week, that I conceived you were head of your family in Perthshire.

In like manner you may have heard of me only as having been confined in Cold Bath Fields Prison as a madman, and thence have cast aside my letters as mere ravings. Let me remind you, however, that I referred in that of July 1, 1828, to Sir Henry Torrens, and one of your constituents. This shall be accompanied with a letter from one of the most eminent men of the age, Dr. Chalmers, dated 17th February 1826, and directed to me in the above-named prison. Dr. Chalmers, you will observe, not only speaks of me with kindness and respect, but states that I was "*one of the ablest of his fellow students.*" I soon afterwards wrote to him as lecturer on political economy, and asserted that "a common labourer may earn the price of half a bushel of wheat per day, while the present amount of rents and taxes is paid," and this I repeated in letters to more than eighty clergymen of Fife, April 1826, offering to explain, if the Doctor gave no solution by May following.

Now, sir, to all that I have said to you, and in my letter to his Majesty returned by the Duke of Wellington, I add the above assertion, and shall prove it if the Duke will send for, and hear me—prove it or be disgraced.

I meant his Grace no disrespect by the freedom of my language. I neither flatter nor fear, and value myself chiefly as an honest man. My wish was to rouse him, and by that rousing I had proof of his having seen my letter to the King, which I could not obtain from a former minister. The victories spoken of were those of Britain, and if they turned on a straw, we have the more reason to give the glory to God—the more reason to make good use of the peace which they