

No. 3.

2, Bridge Street, Leith, 7th May 1829.

SIR—The only reason for wishing my letter to you kept private was, that female relations in Glasgow might hear of it, and have other than their *risible* faculties excited; for it is difficult to manage between women and weak men, or shall I say between weeping and laughing philosophers. The *risible* faculties of Sarah were excited when told she was to have a child: nevertheless she had a child. Agrippa, the heathen, might doubt when asked, "Why should it be thought incredible with you that God should raise the dead?" but now-a-days we must not doubt.

Should operatives listen to me, I shall not draw on their *faith*, but submit to *reason*, as to what I have engraved on my business card. I am neither mad, young, nor inexperienced; have suffered more for operatives than any man alive; and as this, by your rules, will be laid before 15,000 of them, I take the opportunity to say that their best hope should rest in what you think impossible—what you beg me never to mention, as it would excite their risible faculties viz. my asserting that the national debt may be paid off from sales of colonial lands.

If operatives incline, I shall meet their delegates in Glasgow whenever they choose, first to prove this, and then to shew how every industrious man throughout the kingdom may have constant and profitable employment. Should my offer be accepted, you may, instead of keeping this private, publish it in the newspapers, that all the world may laugh me to scorn in case of failure. Otherwise, the less exposure the better.—Yours faithfully,

ROBT. GOURLAY.

Mr. Charles M'Kay.

No. 4.

Glasgow, May 26, 1829.

DEAR SIR—I am sorry that I have not had it in my power to answer your last communication at an earlier date than the above. You will, however, be ready to grant me your excuse for this seeming neglect when you are in possession of my reasons. In the meantime, as I cannot enter into particulars, I will just say that since I wrote you last I have been threatened with the strong arm of the law, and proclaimed through town and country because I happened to be the author of a circular letter to the operatives in the country.

I laid the contents of your last letter before my constituents, or delegates appointed by my constituents; and as they considered it rather opposed to the proceedings in which they were engaged, they could not give any definitive answer; but they informed me, or rather I should say instructed me, to say that if you would come to Glasgow they would be happy to hear what you have to propose for their benefit; and by giving me timely information of your arrival, or the time you intended to come, a respectable meeting would be convened.

M'KAY.