



**A SHORT NARRATIVE OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT
CAMBUSLANG
James Robe**





A Short Narrative of the Extraordinary Work at Cambuslang

JAMES ROBE



Quinta Press





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JAMES ROBE: 1ST PROOF-READING DRAFT

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A SHORT
NARRATIVE

OF THE

Extraordinary Work

AT

CAMBUSLANG,

FOUR MILES FROM Glasgow:

Attested by the Rev. Mr. M'ULLOCH Minister
there, and by several of the most eminent
DIVINES in SCOTLAND.

VIZ.

The Rev. Mr. John WIL-
LISON, of *Dundee*.

The Rev. Mr. MATTHEW
CONNELL, at *Kilbryde*.

The Rev. Mr. JOHN HA-
MILTON, at *Barony*.

The Rev. Mr. WILLIAM
HAMILTON, at *Bothwell*.

The Rev. Mr. WILLIAM
HAMILTON, at *Douglas*.

The Rev. Mr. MCKNEIGHT,
at *Irvin*.

The Rev. Mr. John M'
LAURIN, at *Glasgow*.

By two Students, Preachers,
and by several Elders,

TOGETHER WITH

A *POSTSCRIPT*, sent to the Publisher at *London*
by the above-mentioned Rev. Mr. JOHN WILLISON,

4 A SHORT NARRATIVE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT CAMBUSLANG

of *Dundee*, confirming the Continuance and Increase of this good Work in various Parts of *Scotland*.

Printed in the same Size, fit to be bound with the *New-England* Narrative, recommended by the Rev. Dr. WATTS and Dr. GUYSE.

The *SECOND EDITION*.

LONDON:

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Attestation, to the FACTS
in the following NARRATIVE,
Mr. M'Culloch, Minister at
Cambuslang.

May 8, 1742

I Have perused the following short Narrative, and can attest the Facts contained in it; partly from personal Knowledge, partly from the most credible Informations; But think it a Loss, that it is not more full. I have Teen a larger Paper compiled by different Hands; which besides the Facts related in this, contains several useful Reasonings, tending to prove, That the favourable Judgment formed by many, and even by some, who thro' want of due Information, hesitated at first, about this Work, is supported by all that kind of Evidence, that Things of this Nature are capable of, in such a space of Time. And consequently, that there is good Ground to hope, that by the Divine Blessing, the Confirmation arising from Perseverance, will be Daily increasing, as hitherto it has been.

The said large Paper, contain'd also a Vin-
dication of this Work, from various Objec-
A a tions

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tions; and false, and injurious *Aspersions*
thrown on it in Print, by some who have
not yet appeared to own their *Accusations*;
which in *Justice* they ought to do, or retract
them, But tho' it has not been thought ex-
pedient, to publish that larger Account at
present, I understand the *Compilers* of it,
can easily prepare it for the *Press*, if it shall
be thought needful afterwards.

For my own Part, I desire to join in
heartly Prayers with the People of God, that
he *may revive his Work in the midst of the*
Years, in this and all the Churches, and make
it to triumph over all Opposition; and con-
clude with the *Words* of the Prophet, *Zech.*
iv. 6, 7. Not by Mighty nor by Power,
but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. Who art
thou O great Mountain? before Zerubabel
[the Lord Jesus Christ] thou shalt become
a Plain, and he shall bring forth the Head-
stone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace,
grace unto it.

WILLIAM M'CULLOCH.

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A
NARRATIVE

OF THE

Extraordinary Work

AT

CAMBUSLANG.

IN A Letter TO A Friend.

SIR,

AS the Report of the good Work at *Cambuslang*, which has for several Weeks engaged the Attention of Numbers in this City and Country in the Neighbourhood, is now spread over a great Part of the Nation; it is no Wonder that one who lives at the Distance you do, should be curious to have a true Relation of it: And as I would be glad of any Opportunity to serve you, it is very agreeable to me, to think I can gratify you in this Matter; especially in what concerns the People in that *Parish*, and some other Parishes near it, having had Opportunity to converse fully with the Minister of *Cambuslang*,

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and

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and with many or the People there, who are under this spiritual Exercise, and also with some other Ministers, who have severals in their Parishes that appear to be under the same happy Impressions.

There is one Thing in the Entry I must apprise you of, *viz.* That I am to confine myself, to a simple Narration of Fasts, as the Evidences on which the Opinion of many concerning the present happy Change that is wrought on that People is founded; without entering into any Reasoning, but leaving it to yourself to draw proper Conclusions from the Fasts, after comparing them with Scripture Rules and Instances.

I must also acquaint you, as it was natural to expect, when, on a Angular Occasion of this sort, great Numbers of People from adjacent Towns and Country, came flocking to a Place that became so remarkable; that in such a promiscuous Multitude some *Counterfeits* would readily happen; it was the early Care of the Ministers who-interested themselves most in that Matter, to enter into a strict Examination of those who appeared to be under a more than ordinary *Concern*, so as to obtain Satisfaction to themselves, whether the Work was solid, being justly apprehensive, That the Powers of Darkness would not fail to employ their Devices* to bring Contempt on what might tend so much to the Honour of the Gospel.

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In those watchful Endeavours it must be own*d, that some *Impostors* were found to have mix'd with the *Sincere*; but there is Reason to bless God, that, so far as yet appears, they have been very few, and as these have been severely rebuild, so the mod awful Warnings have been given, against all such insincere Pretentions, which Warnings,, there is Ground to believe, have had very good Effects.

Now, Sir, to give the short History of this Matter.

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The Minister of that *Parish*, in his ordinary Course of Sermons, for near a Twelvemonth before this Work began, had been preaching on those Subjects which tend most directly to explain the Nature, and prove the Necessity of Regeneration,, according to the different Lights in which that important Matter is represented in Holy Scripture: And for some Months before the late remarkable Events, a more than ordinary Concern about Religion appeared among that People; one good Evidence of which was, that about the End of *January* last, a Petition was given in to the Minister, subscribed by about 90 Heads of Families, desiring a Weekly Lecture should be set up; which was readily granted, and the Day fixed on *Thursday*, as the most convenient for the temporal Interests of the Parish.

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On *Monday* the 15th of *February* there was a General Meeting, at the Minister's House, of the particular Societies for Prayer, which had subsisted in the Parish for several Years before: On *Tuesday* there was another Meeting for Prayer there, the Occasion of which was a Concert with several serious Christians elsewhere, about solemn Prayer, relating to the public Interests of the Gospel; in which Concert only a small Number of People in *Cambuslang* were engaged at first, but others getting Notice of it, desired to join, and were admitted: The People who met for Prayer these two days, apprehended that they had been so well employed, and found so much Leisure for it, that they had a third Meeting on *Wednesday*: But on all these three Days they returned timeously in the Evening to their own Houses, so far is it from being true that they rushed from some of these Meetings to the Church and continued *immured* there for some Days and Nights, as was reported.

Before *Thursday, February* the 18th, they had Week-day Sermons only on *Thursdays* according to the above-mentioned Desire of the *Parish*; and before that Day, tho' several particular Persons came to the Minister, from Time to Time, under deep Concern about their Salvation, yet there came no great Numbers together.

But on that Day after Sermon, a considerable Number of People, reckoned by some present about.

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about fifty, came together to the Minister's House, under Convictions and alarming Apprehensions about the State of their Souls, and desiring to speak with him.

From this unexpected Number, coming in an Evening, in so great Distress, and the Necessity of the Minister's exhorting them in general, and converting with many of them separately, you will easily perceive that he behoved to spend that Night with them, as he did most part of two or three more since this Work began, which is now about twelve Weeks.

After this, Numbers daily resorted to that Place, some to hear the Word, some to converse with People who were under this remarkable Concern, and others with different Views: And the Desires and Exigencies of those were such that the Minister found himself obliged, without any previous Intimation, to provide them daily Sermons, a few Days excepted, and after Sermon usually to spend some Time with them in Exhortations, Prayers, and singing of Psalms, being especially encouraged thereto by the extraordinary Success with which God was pleased, from Time to Time, to bless his own Ordinances, in so much that, by

IO A SHORT NARRATIVE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT CAMBUSLANG

the best Information that could be had, the Number of Persons awakened to a deep Concern about Salvation, and against whom there are no known Exceptions as yet, has amounted to above 300. And 3 thro* divine Mercy, the Work seems to be

still

to

still making considerable Progress every Week, and more for some Weeks of late than some Times formerly.

Of the Number just now mentioned the Far greater Part have given already, both to Ministers and other serious Christians, a good Account of what they have felt in their Convictions and Humiliation for Sin, of the Way of their Relief by Faith in the Mercy of God thro' Jesus Christ, and of the Change they feel in the prevalent Inclinations and Dispositions of their Hearts.

As to their Devotion and other Parts of their Practice, which is that which chiefly attracts the Attention and Regard of this Country; there are comfortable Accounts given of it, by those who have the best and most frequent Opportunities of knowing their daily Behaviour.

The *Parish* of *Cambuslang* being of so small Extent, that most of the People live within a Mile of the Church, and some who have the best Intelligence, being almost every Day with the Minister, he and they have abundant Opportunities to know the Practices of such of the People I am speaking of, as live within their Bounds, and the Account they give of it is, That they appear to be in a very hopeful Way; and the like good Accounts are given by several Ministers and others, of such of those People as belong: to other neighbouring Parishes.

Among

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Among the particular good Fruits, already appearing, both in *Cambuslang* and elsewhere, the following Instances seem very encouraging: A visible Reformation of the Lives of Persons who were formerly notorious Sinners; particularly, the laying aside of Cursing and Swearing, and drinking to Excess, among those who were addicted to that Practice: Remorse for Acts of Injustice, and for Violation of relative Duties confessed to the Persons wronged, joined with new Endeavours after a conscientious Discharge of such Duties: Restitution which has more than once been distinctly and particularly inculcated in public, since this Work began; forgiving of Injuries; all definable Evidences of fervent Love to one another, to all Men, and even to those who speak Evil of them; and among those People both in *Cambuslang* and other Parishes, more affectionate Expressions of Regard than ever to their own Ministers, and to the Ordinances dispensed by them; the keeping up divine Worship in Families, where it was neglected very often by some and entirely by others; the erecting of new Societies for Prayer, both of old and young, partly within the *Parish*, where no less than twelve such Societies are newly begun, and partly elsewhere, among Persons who have been awaken'd on this Occasion: And, together with all these Things, ardent Love to the Holy Scriptures, vehement Thirsting after the public Ordinances, earnest Desires to get private Instructions in their Duty

from

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from Ministers and others, with commendable Docility and Tractableness in receiving such Instructions.

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This Thirst after Knowledge is particularly remarkable in those who were more ignorant; several who cannot read, and some of them old Persons, being so desirous to be better acquainted with the Word of God that they are resolved to learn to read, and some of the younger Sort actually putting themselves to School.

I would farther add, that these good Impressions have been made on Persons of *very* different Characters and Ages; on some of the most abandon'd as well as the more sober: On Young as well as Old; on the illiterate as well as the more knowing; on Persons of a flower as well as those of a quicker and more sprightly *Genius*; and, which seems to deserve special Attention, on Persons who were addicted to scoffing at sacred *Things*, and at this Work in particular at the Beginning of *it*.

The Sum of the *Facts*, I have represented to you is, That this Work has been begun, and carried on under the Influence of the great and substantial Doctrines of Christianity, pressing jointly, *the Necessity of Repentance towards God, of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and of Holiness in all manner of Conversation*; that it came after such *Preparatives* as an extensive Concern about Reli-

gion

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gion gradually increasing; together with extraordinary *fervent* Prayer in large Meetings, particularly relating to the *Success* of the Gospel; that great and successful Pains have been taken, to discover and discountenance *Hypocritical* Pretences, and to warn People against what might have the least appearance of *Enthusiasm*, or Delusion: That the Account given by a very large Number of People of their *inward* Exercises, and Attain-

ments, seems to agree with the Scripture *Standards* and are bringing forth in Practice, *Fruits meet for Repentance*; comprehending the several Branches of Piety, and of the most substantial Morality, that can intitle Men, to the Regards of Friends of Religion and Virtue.

And now, Sir, I have given you a plain, and simple Account of the most material *Facts*, relating to this *extraordinary* Work at and those awakned there belonging to other Parishes; together with the proper Documents by which these *Facts* are supported; in all which I have avoided Disputing, and studied Brevity.

I leave it to you to judge, how far such *Facts* make it evident, that this Work is from God; when (to use the Words of a *pious* Divine treating of a Subject of the same Nature)* “He that “was formerly a *Drunkard* lives a sober Life; “when a vain, light and wanton Person becomes “grave and sedate; when the Blasphemer becomes

* See Mr. *Finly*'s Sermon, intitled Christ Triumphant, &c.

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“a Praiser of God; when carnal Joy is turned “into Heaviness, and that professedly on Account of their Soul's Condition; when the Ignorant are filled with Knowledge of divine Things, and the Tongue that was dumb in the Things of God speaks the Language of *Ca-naan*”—when secure Sinners—“Have “been rouzed with a Witness about the State of “their Souls, *Luke* xi. 21, 22. these who were “ignorant can speak skilfully about religious Things, and even the graceless are increased in “Knowledge,—Swearers drop their Oaths and “speak reverently of God: Vain Persons who

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“minded no Religion, but frequented Taverns
 “and Frolicks, passing their Time in Filthiness,
 “foolish Talking and Jestings, or singing paltry
 “Songs, do now frequent Christian Societies (for
 “Prayer): Seek Christian Conversation and talk
 “of Soul-concerns, and choose to express their
 “Mirth in Psalms and Hymns and spiritual
 Songs: They who were too sprightly to be de-
 vout, and esteemed it an unmanly Thing to
 “shed Tears for their Souls State, have mourned
 “as for an only Son, and seem’d to be in Bit-
 “terness as for a first Born, *Zech. xii. 10.*—
 “And Persons who came to mock at the La-
 “mentations of others, have been convinced,
 “and by free Grace proselyted to such Ways as
 “they formerly despised.”

I am,

May 8th. *Sir,*

1742. *Yours, &c.*

It

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It may be of use to Reader, who live at a
 Distance, in perishing the following Attestations,
 to know, as to the Situation of *Cambuslang*, that
 it lies about four Miles from *Glasgow*; The several
 Parishes, whose Ministers, Heritors and Elders,
 sign most of the Attestations, lie very near it,
viz. the Parishes of *Kilbryde*, *Bothwell*, *Old Monk-*
land and *Barony*; That Mr. *Matthew Connel* and
 Mr. *William Hamilton* live but about three Miles
 from *Cambuslang*, and are the eldest Ministers of
 the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, in whose Bounds that
Parish lies; That the two Preachers who sign a
 joint Attestation, and are young Men of known
 Probity, have frequently assisted Mr. *M’Culloch*
 of late; That Mr. *Duncan* resides in the *Parish*,
 and Mr. *Young* has resided a considerable Time in
 the *Gorbals* near *Glasgow*, where many of the a-
 wakned People dwell: Also that Mr. *Willison* and

Mr. *M'Kneight* who live at a good Distance from *Cambuslang*, spent some Time there, inquiring into this Work as their Attestations bear.

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**ATTESTATIONS,
to the Facts in the Narrative, re-
lating to the Fruits of this Work.**

ATTESTATION I. BY MR. *WILLISON*, ONE OF THE
MINISTERS OF *DUNDEE*.

Glasgow April 15, 1742.

Rev. and dear Brother,

Seeing some are desirous to have my Thoughts of the Work at *Cambuslang*, I am willing to own, that I have travelled a good way to enquire and get Satisfaction about it. And having resided several Days in Mr. *M'Culloch's* House, I had Occasion to converse with many who had been awakned and under Convictions there; I found severals in Darkness and great Distress about their Souls Condition, and with many Tears bewailing their Sins and original Corruption, and especially the Sin of Unbelief, and slighting of precious Christ, and some who had been in this Case for these several Weeks past; yet I saw nothing in any tending to Despair, but on the contrary their Exercise pointed still at the great Remedy, for oft they would be breaking out in hopeful Expressions, such as, *Tho' he slay me I will trust in him.*

Others

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Others I found in a most desirable Frame, Overcome with a sense of the wonderful Love, and loveliness of Jesus Christ, *even sick of Love*, and

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inviting all about them to help them to praise him.

I spoke also with many who had got relief from their Soul-Trouble, and in whom the gracious Work of the Spirit of God appeared in the Fruits and Effects of it, according to my Apprehension; such as their ingenuous confessing of their former evil Ways, and professing a hatred of Sin; very low and abasing thoughts of themselves; renouncing the Vanities of the World, and all their own Doings and Righteousness, and relying Wholly upon Christ for *Righteousness and Strength*; and expressing great Love to Christ, to the Bible, to secret Prayer, to the People of God, and to his Image in whomsoever it was, without respect of Persons, or Parties; and also Love to their Enemies; and when they heard of some who called the Work at C—g a Delusion of the Devil, they shew'd no Resentment against them, but wished their Eyes might be opened, and earnestly wished they could bring all their Enemies, and all the World to their dear Redeemed

I conversed with some who had been very wicked, and scandalous; but now wonderfully chang'd: Tho' some were very rude and boisterous before, they now had the mildness and meek-

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ness of the Lamb about them. When they spoke of their former Ways they blushed, and wept, and said, None in all the Country round were so vile as they, and earnestly Desired to exalt free Grace: And when I was cautioning them against new Temptations and Relapses, they shewed a Sense of their own Weakness, and were afraid on that Account to come near their old Companions, tho' they would fain had them also brought to

Christ: They said, They would wish rather to die than go back to old Sins, and if ever they should be left to any of them, they would incline to leave the Country, because of the Dishonour it would bring on the Work of God, which they could not bear to see.

Tho' I conversed with a great Number both Men and Women, Old and Young, I could observe nothing *Visionary* or *Enthusiastick* about them; for their Discourses were solid, and Experiences Scriptural; and all the Comfort and Relief they got from Trouble, still came to them, by some Promise or Word of Scripture cast into their Minds, and it was pleasant to hear them mention the great variety of these Words up and down the Bible. And some who could not read, told their Words of Consolation, not knowing well if they were in the Bible or not, and when upon asking, if they were Bible Words or not, they greatly rejoiced to find they were.

I had

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I had heard much of this surprising Work by Letters, and from Eye-Witnesses before I came, but all that made flight Impressions on me, when compared with what I was Eye, and Ear-Witness to my self.

Upon the whole I look on the Work at C—g, to be a most Angular, and marvellous Out-pouring of the *Holy Spirit*, which Christ hath promised; and I pray it may be a happy Fore-runner of a general Reviving of the Work of God in this poor decayed Church, and a blessed Mean of Union among, all the Lovers of our dear *Jesus*.

I am sorry I cannot stay to assist you further in this good Work; my Business, and Circum-

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stances oblige me to return homewards. May the Lord himself strengthen and encourage you in his Work, and graciously carry on what he has begun, *and take to him his great Power*, that he may *reign gloriously thro' all the Land*. I remain with all Sincerity,

*Rev. and dear Brother,
Your most affectionate Brother and Servant
in the Lord,*

JO. WILLISON.
Attestation

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ATTESTATION II. BY MR. CONNELL, MINISTER IN KILBRYDE.

Rev. and Dear Brother,

Many have asked my Opinion of the Work at *Cambuslang*, which I freely gave (as now I write to you) that I look'd upon it as a Work of God's Spirit: When I compared the Exercise of several Persons that had been there, with the Scripture Accounts of Conviction and Conversion, I have been under a Necessity to conclude that it is neither Delusion nor Imposture, as has been given out by those who are unacquainted with the Dealings of God of that kind, or under the Influence of Party Zeal.

Some I have seen crying out of the Evil of Sin and of their Danger by it, sadly bewailing their Guilt and Misery, expressing a most earnest Desire of an Interest in Christ, which they laid, They would value more than all the World, but bitterly complaining of want of Love to him, want of Faith in him, and undutiful Carriage towards him through their past Life; and if now it might be their Attainment, for former Cold-

ness and Deadness to have Love to Christ; for Unbelief Faith in him; and for an undutiful Behaviour towards him, a sincere and hearty Embracing of him in the Gospel Offer; and living the rest of their Time to the Praise and Glory

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of his Name: This they would account their greatest Happiness, and the Remedy of all the Evils in their Case; and, for this Effect, they beg'd the Help of Prayers.

Others I have seen who lamented their lost Time and Opportunities, and the Vanity and Folly of their Youth, saying, Many good Sermons and Prayers they had heard, but all had been lost to them, and had no good Effect upon them, being wholly carried away with youthful Vanities and Follies; but added, now we are resolved in the Strength of the Grace of Christ (for, said they, of ourselves we can do nothing) to improve Time and Opportunities better, to value Sermons and Prayers, to read the Scriptures, to keep Company with the Fearers of God, and to shun Fellowship with the Wicked as much as possible, blessing God that he had not taken them away, before they law the Necessity of all these.

Others I have conversed with, who, like Doves-of the Valleys, were mourning for their Iniquities, principally because they did strike against God and wound their Redeemer, using the Expressions, *Psal.* 51. 4. and *Zech.* 12. 10. But with good through the Merits of Christ and Mercy of God in him, that it would be well with them.

Others

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Others I have observed at one Time much dejected and under a Cloud, at another Time possessed of a good Measure of spiritual Joy, as it happens with the best of Saints.

Others I have heard cry, They had spent their Money for that which is not Bread, and their Labour for that which did not satisfy, having given their Time and Strength to the World and the Things of it, which now they resolved against, there being Matters of greater Moment, which they saw and were convinced, they should be mainly taken up about.

And to trouble you with no more, (for I could write you a Volume on this Subject) A young Woman, who after having given me a distinct Account of her Distress and Outgate, said, I have liv'd above Twenty Years in the World, and all that Time the Devil had Possession of my Heart, and I am sure he is a bad Guest, but blessed be God, I hope he is now in a great Measure dispossessed, and shall never, through the Strength of Christ, recover that Power over me that formerly he had. Mean Time I observe to you, This Person had all along been of a blameless Life, and not chargeable with any Scandal, but with Tears regretted her careless Way of going about secret Duty, reading the Scriptures and hearing Sermons, or neglecting these altogether; but with much Humility and Seriousness, in the

Strength

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Strength of divine Grace, express'd her Resolution, That she would do so no more.

Upon the whole, In most of all I have seen and conversed with, I observed, and have daily Occasion to observe, the Effects of Godly Sorrow mentioned by the Apostle, 2 *Cor.* 7. 11.

Praying the Pleasure of the Lord may more and more prosper in your Hands, and begging the Help of your Prayers for me and this People,

I am,

*Kilbryde, April Rev. and Dear Brother,
19th, 1742.*

Yours most affectionately,

MATTHEW CONNELL.

ATTESTATION III. BY MR. JOHN HAMILTON, MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, IN BARONY.

I Understand it is expected from me, that I should declare my Sentiments of the extraordinary Work at *Cambuslang*, as a good many of my Parishioners have lately been awakened there, to a great Concern about their Souls Happiness.

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As soon as I was inform'd of their Condition, I made it my Business to wait on them, and found a good many Persons under the deepest Exercise of Soul, crying out most bitterly, of their lost and miserable Estate, by reason of Sin, of their Unbelief, in despising Christ, and the Offers of the Gospel, of the hardness of their Heart and their former gross Carelessness, and Indifferency about *Religion*: And tho' some of them said, they had regularly attended the preaching of the *Gospel*, yet acknowledged with

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much Regret, their Misimprovement of it; how many sweet Sermons they had heard without any Benefit, and they came to Church with no Design to be instructed, but only, as they said, To see, and be seen.

I have heard them expressing a great deal of Sorrow for these *Things*, and seemingly, in the most serious and sincere Manner; and not so much, as some of them have told me, from the fear of Punishment, to which they had thereby exposed themselves, as from a Sense of the Dishonour they had done to God, and the blessed Redeemer; and frequently aggravated their Sins, from this Consideration, That they had been the Betrayers and Murtherers of the Lord of Glory,

And tho' I have seen some of them under extreme Affliction and Distress, I could never observe the least Disorder in their Judgments: But

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their Complaints were always suitable to their Condition. Neither have I observed any of them carried away with despairing Thoughts of the Mercy of God: But all of them seemed to be seeking Relief, in the Method the Gospel proposes; and expressed the warmest Desires after an Interest in Christ, to obtain which they laid they would cheerfully lay down their Lives, and part with every thing, *that was dear to them in the World.*

I have at several different Times converted with many of these Persons, and have received no small Satisfaction from such Conversations. When speaking of Prayer, they have told me, how much that Duty had been neglected by them, and in what a cold lifeless Manner it was

perform'd; from which therefore, they neither did nor could reap any Satisfaction: But now said they, It was an Exercise, in which they found much Sweetness and Comfort.

Their Love to the Holy Scriptures, all of them express in the most lively and moving Manner, frequently calling it, a precious and invaluable Treasure; greatly surprized how they could possibly slight it so much in Time past, and declaring they now saw many things in it, highly useful and comfortable to them; which they never before imagin'd had been there.

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They express a great Love to, and Desire after the public Ordinances; when I have asked some of them, if they had such affection as the *Psalmist* speaks of in the Beginning of 122 *Psalm*, when it was said to him, *Let us go up to the House of the Lord*, they have told me, that tho' it was quite otherwise with them before; yet now they found a vast Pleasure in attending the Church, and public Worship of God, and a great Unwillingness in them to withdraw from it, when the Service was over.

They are likewise exceedingly desirous of more private Instruction in their Duty, and take all Opportunities of waiting on those, that can be of use to them, and such of them as are near at hand, do frequently come to my House, and receive my Advice and Assistance; and I never saw Persons more *docile* than they are. I must own indeed that when I first conversed with them I found some of them pretty Ignorant of the Principles of Religion: But this was what they seem'd deeply grieved and afflicted for; and much condemned their former Sloth and Negligence, and since that

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Time, have been making use of the proper Means of Knowledge, and I think I can say, with no contemptable Success, considering the short time they have had.

Some of them seem to discover devout Breathings of Soul after God, and the blessed Redemer,

and

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and Resolutions thro' Grace, to depend upon him in the worst of Circumstances, often making use of these Words of Job xiii. 15. *Tho' he slay me, yet will I trust in him.* I have been much surprized to see how readily, nay even judiciously, some of them who had been formerly ignorant and unconverted, have spoke of some of the mod important Points of practical Religion, and with what facility they have adduced Passages of Scripture, verry suitable to what they were speaking about.

There is another Branch of Christian Duty, that I do think they are likewise studying a Conformity to; and that is Love to Mankind: I have heard them often wishing, and desiring that all Men might be brought to Christ, and the Knowledge of the Truth; and particularly expressing a great Regard for all that are the Lord's People. So far as I have yet Access to know them, they seem to be of a meek and quiet Spirit, and willing to forgive; telling me they Desire to wish well, and to pray even for the Happiness of those, who had been injurious to them.

More might be said upon this Subject, but I choose rather to be sparing, 'till Time make a clearer Discovery of them.

The Persons I have conversed with, were of different Characters: Some of them had all

along been pretty sober and regular in their
Lives, and duly enough attended the Ordinances

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of

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of the Gospel, others of them were very careless
this Way, and addicted to many Sins: But even
those who were more blameless in their Lives,
have declared, That their Hearts 'till now, were
never touched with any Thing they heard from
the Word of God; that they had never lived un-
der the Influence of Religion, and were grossly
unconcern'd about their Salvation.

These now are the Appearances, I observe
among some of my People, who were awaken'd
to a Concern about their Souls at *Cambuslang*;
which do strongly incline me to think, that it is
the Work of God.

Glasgow, April
26, 1742.

John Hamilton.

ATTESTATION IV. BY MR. William
Hamilton, MINISTER AT *BOTHWELL*.

R. and D. B.

I Have seen the Attestation by the Rev. Mr.
Matthew Council in *Kilbryde*, as also that by the
Reverend Mr. *John Hamilton* in *Barony* of *Glasgow*.
As I have no new Thing to add, so I heartily
join in the same Sentiments with my above-named
Brethren, both as to the Reality of that extraordi-

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nary Work at *Cambuslang*, being in very deed a
gracious Work of the Spirit of God, designed,

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I firmly believe, for the saving Conviction and Conversion of many perishing Souls, not only in that Parish, but in the Neighbourhood. May the Lord, in his infinite Mercy, shed abroad the Influences of his saving, Grace through all the Corners of the Land.

There are a good Number of my People, mostly young People, who have been awakened at *Cambuslang*, and have much the same Account to give of them with my above-named Brethren: All of them are very serious and concerned about their Soul's Case, and are very solicitous to have others brought to Acquaintance with Christ and the Way of Salvation through him: Which has had this (I hope) blessed Effect, that there seems to be a more than ordinary Seriousness, among a goodly Number in several Corners this Congregation, more Conference made of Family Worship, in several Families who made but too little Account of it before; as likewise there are some new Societies for Prayer and Christian Conference, set up in this Congregation; wherein several Persons, besides these awakened at *Cambuslang*, have joined. I hope these Things, thro' the Blessing, of God, may prove the Beginning of much Good, in this and in other Places. May that blessed God, who has begun a good Work, either with you or any other Place, carry on and perfect the same, until the Day of Jesus Christ

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May

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May the Lord direct and assist you and all his Servants, to a right and faithful Management of our great Master's Work among our Hands. I add no more, but am with the greatest Sincerity.,

Rev. and Dear Brother,

Your affectionate Brother,

Bothwell, May,

and humble Servant in the Lord,

7th, 1742

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

ATTESTATION V. BY MR. William
Hamilton, MINISTER IN *DOUGLAS*.

R. and D. B.

While I was with you, it gave me great Pleasure to see so much Concern upon People's Spirits about the Salvation of their precious and immortal Souls, a Thing very rare amongst us: Some whom I had Occasion to discourse with, appeared to be in the utmost Distress upon account of Sin, both original and actual, and that principally as it is that abominable Thing which God hates. Others whose Consciences God had awakened with a Sense of Guilt, but had now got believing Views of Christ Jesus, as a most complete Saviour, both able and willing to save; and whom God has determined by the Power of his

Spirit

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Spirit to yield themselves to the Lord: They in a very strong Manner express'd Love to their God and Saviour, and to all his Commands, both of the first and second Table of the Law; and declared, That it was their firm Purpose and Resolution, through the Assistance of the Holy Spirit, to walk in all the Commandments and Ordinances of the Lord blameless; and seem'd more afraid of offending God than of any Sufferings they might be exposed to in a World: And their Practices, so far as I can hear, are as yet agreeable to their Resolutions; so that I not only hope, but think I have good Ground to believe, that Work begun and for some Time past carried on amongst the People of *Cambuslang*, and Strangers that have resorted thither from many distant Parts, shall appear to the Conviction of all good Men, to be the

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Work of God, from the after holy Life and Conversation, of not a few of these, whose Consciences have at this Time been awaken'd to a Sense of their loft and undone State by Nature. That the Lord may more and more assist, strengthen, and support you, and give you and all faithful Ministers of the Gospel many Seals of their Ministry, is the hearty Prayer of,
D.B.

May 6th, Your affectionate Brother,
1742.

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

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ATTESTATION VI. BY MR. M'KNEIGHT
MINISTER AT IRVIN.

Rev. and dear Brother.

AS I had by Information from Letters, conceiv'd a good Opinion of the extraordinary and surprising Work at *Cambuslang* before I went thither, upon an Invitation from you, to preach there last *Sabbath*; so my said Opinion, has been very much confirmed by what I was Eye and Ear-Witness to, during, my abode with you, from *Saturday* to *Tuesday* last; being still more and more persuaded, that it is the real Work of the Spirit of God.

While I joined with your Congregation in publick Worship, I observ'd amongst the vast Numbers that flocked to hear the Gospel preached at *Cambuslang*, not only the serious Looks, the grave Deportment, and the close Attention of the Multitudes to what was spoken, but also the weeping Eyes of many, that appeared to be in the greatest Distress and Trouble,

Again in the Evenings, after public Worship was ended, and when I had Occasion to converse with several of these afflicted Persons, I found their Wounds and anguish of Soul, together with their Tears, did proceed not from a whimsical and *Enthusiastic* Imagination, but from a deep.

Conviction

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Conviction of the great Evil and Demerit of Sin original and actual, particularly of their Sin of Unbelief, and slighting precious Christ, and the gracious offers of Salvation by Him; and when I exhorted and directed them to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Apostle *Paul* did the convinced and trembling Jaylor, *Acts* xvi. 31. they answered, *Lord help me to believe*, gladly would I believe but I cannot. However while under their Soul Exercises for Sin, and because of God's Wrath, I heard them expressing ardent Desires after Christ, and an Interest in him, and Salvation by him; and a great Thirst after the Word, the knowledge of God and of divine Things, and after a saving Faith in a crucified Jesus, which gave me ground to hope that our dear Redeemer Jesus, would loon accomplish these longing Desires in relieving them from their Distresses, of both Body and Mind.

Likewise, I converted with others, who were under piercing and deep Convictions of Sin; and have felt *the sharp Arrows of the Almighty sticking fast in their Souls*, and to whom the Spirit of God, had upon their believing in Jesus Christ, applied *His precious Blood* to heal these Wounds, and hereon hath granted them Relief and Comfort, hath delivered *their Souls from Death, their Eyes from Tears, and their Feet from falling*; for which distinguishing Mercies, they were exalting free

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Grace, saying with the Apostle *Paul, It's my Grace we are what we are, and blessed be the God*
and

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and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual Blessings in heavenly Places in Christ.

They, when I converted with them, declared distinctly the Way and Manner, how their Convictions began and wrought, and how the Relief they got from Soul Troubles came to them. They also discovered the gracious Work of the Spirit of God upon their Souls, in their Confession of Sin with Shame, Sorrow, and Blushing; in their professing a Hatred of it, and loathing themselves on the Account thereof, crying out, *Behold, We are vile, we abhor ourselves, and repent in Dust and ashes,* in their Love to God, and his Ordinances, in renouncing their own *Righteousness* and in relying wholly on Christ *for Righteousness and Strength,* in their high Esteem of, and ardent Love to their dear Redeemer, in their Charity and Love to one another and to all Christians, and especially to those who are the real Disciples of the Lord Jesus, and bears the Image of their heavenly Father; in their tender Sympathy with, and affectionate Concern for those, that fall under Distress and anguish of Spirit for Sin; and in their Endeavours to relieve them, by good Advices and proper Exhortations, and to comfort the dejected and disquieted in Mind, with the Consolations wherewith they themselves had been comforted. These are a few of the good Fruits of the Spirit of God, I observed among severals, I converted with at *Cambuslang*.

Therefore

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Therefore I cannot but bear a Testimony, that in my Apprehension, the surprising Work with you, dear Brother, for these several Weeks past, is of God. And if the Work be of God, then neither the Devil, nor all his Agents shall be able to overthrow it; yea I hope thro' the Divine Blessing on the Seed sown, and to be sown, to hear more of its remarkable Success with you. As I Desire to join you in giving Thanks to God, for this remarkable countenancing your sacred Ministrations, to many in your *Parish* and Neighbourhood; so I intreat you may constantly remember me, and my Flock at the Throne of Grace; and join with us in earned and repeated Prayers to God, that the like observable Outpourings of the *Holy Spirit*, may visit my Congregation and the neighbouring Parishes; to revive his Work in this *West-Country*; and may it spread not only through all the Churches in *Britain* and *Ireland*, but throughout all the Churches in the World, for building up *Zion*; yea that the *Heathen* may be given to Christ for his Inheritance, and the utmost Ends of the Earth for his Possession.

That a rich and powerful Blessing from Heaven, may crown your Ministerial-labours with more and more Success, is, and shall be the earnest Prayer of, *Rev. and dear Brother,*

Irvine May 6th,
1742.

*Your affectionate Brother,
and Servant in the Lord,*
WILL. M'KNEIGHT.
Attestation

ATTESTATION VII. BY MR. JOHN MC-
LAURIN, ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF
GLASGOW.

May 12, 1742.

HAVING had Occasion not only to converse with severals in this City, who have been lately awaken'd at *Cambuslang*, to a deep Concern about Salvation; and upon Inquiry to get good Accounts of their Behaviour; but also to bellow some Pains, in Conversations and Inquiries of that Kind, in the Parish of *Cambuslang* itself; by these Means, I am in a Condition to affirm on good Grounds, several of the most material Things in the above *Narrative* and *Attestations*: But in regard of the intended Brevity of this Paper, I judge it proper, to avoid too particular Repetition of Things already attested by so many good Hands.

By the Accounts which severals of these People give of their Impressions of Things of eternal Importance, with great Appearances of Sincerity, supported by the Accounts given by others of their Conduct, they seem, in the Judgment of Charity, to be Persons to whom the following Scripture-Characters agree; *viz.* That *they are of broken Hearts end contrite Spirits; that they come to God through Jesus Christ as the Way, the Life, and*

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the fruit; that they endeavour, by the Grace of God, to give all Acceptation, to the true and faithful Saying, That Christ came to save Sinners, that they have the Love of God shed abroad in their Hearts, and earnest Desires to have his Law written on their

Hearts: While they are still deeply sensible of the remainders of Evil, that cleave to them and others in this imperfect State.

By the Accounts given of their Practice, by those who have the nearest View of it, they appear to have forsaken the Sins to which they were addicted, to delight in the Duties from which they were averse, to watch against Temptations, to which they formerly yielded; and instead of separating one Part of Religion from another, to have a strict Regard to the Precepts of both Tables of the *Divine* Law: Herein exercising themselves to have, *Consciences void of Offence toward God, and toward Men.*

From the best Observations I could make on their Disposition. and Behaviour, compar'd with the Observations made by others, they seem, in a particular Manner, to excel in Meekness, Humility, Self-denial and Charity: In the *Wisdom from above*, described in Scripture (*James* iii. 17.) As *first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of Mercy and good Fruits, &c. in Aversion from Things, that tend to Strife rather than to Edification:* And in ardent Desire of the Conversion and Salvation of others,

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I would

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I would not be understood to assert such Things of all, whom I know to have pretended to Seriousness about Religion, on this Occasion; being particularly concerned to attest from Personal Knowledge, in Conjunction with Mr. *M'Culloch*, that part of the above *Narrative* which relates to Pains taken, with some Success, in detecting Deceivers: A Correspondence having been set on foot and being indeed kept up still, and severals here having begun and resolving to continue a

34 A SHORT NARRATIVE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT CAMBUSLANG

proper Scrutiny from time to time, in order to such Discoveries.

Mean time, whatever ungrateful Discoveries may have been made already, which indeed are not many, or may hereafter be the Result of such Inquiries; People of Candour will own, that the Faults of a few particular Persons ought not to be charged on a Body of serious People, who to other Evidences of Sincerity, add that of a hearty Concern, that Deceivers or Backsliders may be detected, admonish'd and by the *Divine* Blessing reclaim'd.

Whereas an unknown Person very lately wrote a Letter to Mr. *M'Culloch*, dated *April 29th*, (in which was inclos'd another Letter with a Twenty Shillings Note to Mr. *J. J.* Merchant in this City, an Account of Wrong done to his Father of two or three Shillings Value many Years ago) and that unknown Person Desires that in the print-

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ed Account, that was expected of the Work at *Cambuslang*, there might be some Instructions about Restitution; it is thought sufficient, in regard of the shortness of this Paper, to refer that Person and others, to the Scriptures cited in our larger *Catechism*, where it treats of the 8th Commandment, and to approv'd Commentaries on the Ten Commandments in general, affecting and proving the Necessity of that Duty.*

While Friends of Religion will judge themselves obliged to Desire, that all who have been awakned to serious Concern about it, may prove real Converts, persevering to the End: They and others should remember, that tho' several should backslide, which God of his Mercy prevent, it

can be no Argument against the Sincerity of the rest.

So far as we have credible Accounts of World to which this bears a Resemblance, it does not appear by what I can recollect or learn from Persons well skill'd in Church-History, that ever there were so great Numbers awakned to so deep Concern about their Souls, attended with so promising Evidences, as these mentioned in the above Narrative and Attestations, without a happy Issue: It appears therefore agreeable to the Rules of Charity and just Reasoning, to hope for the like good Issue as to this present Case.

* See Mr. *Durham* on the Ten Commands.

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It consists with my Knowledge, that as to such of the People whom this Paper treats of, as seem to have attained to joyful Hopes, on which some particular Scripture Promises appear to have a remarkable Influence; Care is taken to examine them, and to direct them to examine themselves about the essential Evidences of Interest in Christ and so all the Promises in general.

JOHN M'Laurin.

ATTESTATION VIII. BY TWO PREACHERS TO
THE SUCCESS OF THE GOSPEL AT CAM-
BUSLANG, FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BY PAST.

May—1742.

HAVING had Access to examine several Persons that have been awaken'd to a serious Concern about Salvation, by Means of the Ministrations of the Gospel there, we find with many of them what we can't but construct, in the Judgment of Charity, to be promising Ap-

pearances, or hopeful Beginnings of a good Work of Graces such as, a deep Sense of their sinful and guilty State, and Apprehension of the extreme need of the Saviour Jesus Christ, to be justified by his Blood, and sanctified by his Spirit:

their

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their plain Confession of their great Ignorance, and Blindness in the Things of God, and Mysteries of his Kingdom, and earnest Desire to know the Truth as it is in Jesus; and laborious Diligence to be better acquainted with the first Principles of his Doctrine: deeply lamenting their Heart Pollutions and Abominations, as well as their great Neglect of God's Worship, and careless Regard of the great Salvation formerly, and with some, their gross Vices, and scandalous Prophanations of God's Name and Day; their frequent Complaints of the Sin of Unbelief in Christ, and of the Deadness and Hardness of their Hearts, and anxious Concerns and Prayers to have them softened with the spiritual Views of Christ as crucified, into the Exercises of godly Sorrow and Repentance, and reduced in Captivity to the Obedience of the Faith: Their cautious Guard against Sin and Temptation: their tender Circumspection over themselves, lest the corrupt Conversation of others, the hearing of which sometimes is unavoidable, might stifle their serious Concern, and extinguish religious Impressions: Their frequent Watchfulness unto the Duties of Worship, Reading the Scriptures as it becomes the Oracles of the living God, hearing the Gospel preached with serious Attention as the Voice of Christ speaking to them; praying to God as the Searcher of the Hearts and Trier of the Reins: humbly supplicating him with a deep Sense of their own Unworthiness and Demerit, as the Father of all Mercies, and God of all Grace in

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Christ, and making Conscience of having him frequently in their Thoughts, and being tenderly sensible when the Spirit breathes on their Souls in such Exercises, as a Spirit of Life and Liberty, and anon when he withholds his sensible Influences and Consolations of Grace, their Hearts are troubled.

And when we consider that the young are early inquiring the Ways to *Zion*, seeking the Lord with Weeping and Supplication, that Sinners are taught God's Ways, and Transgressors converted to him, the openly prophane and profligate, who were running headlong in the Paths of the Destroyer, and enticing and corrupting others into the same pernicious Courses, stopped in their hot Career, and reformed by Sovereign victorious Grace, frequenting Christian Fellowships, and abounding in Christian Conference, and heartning and encouraging others to walk in Wisdom's Ways which are Pleasantness and Peace: We have good Ground to rejoice at this remarkable Success of the Gospel, and to bless the Name of God for giving such a sensible Testimony to the Word of his Grace, and to plead in Prayer to him, filling, our Mouths, with this Argument, That as he has begun to lift up a Cloud of his gracious Presence on this Spot of his Vineyard, that he would spread it far and wide, so that in many Places the gathering of the People may be to our *Shiloh*, and many may be observed to fly unto him as Clouds and as Doves to their Win-

dows,

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dows, even to fly for Refuge from the Wrath to come, and to lay hold on the Rope set before them,

JAMES YOUNG.
AL. DUNCAN.

AT CAMBUSLANG *MAY 6TH, 1742.*

IN regard the Parish of old *Monkland* at present wants a Minister, we subscribing Heritors and Elders of the said Parish, hereby testify; That there is a considerable Number of Persons belonging to this Parish, who have been awakened at *Cambuslang*, to a deep Concern about their Salvation; and that we have conversed with severals of them, who, to our Apprehension, seem to be in a hopeful Way.

Robert Donald, Elder.
Alex. Scott, Elder.

ATTESTATION IX. BY MR. D. CONNELL,
PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL.

YOU Desire some account from me, of what I have observed or know with regard to the work, at *Cambuslang*, which I shall give without Art or Disguise,

I have

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I have converted with a good many in this Parish that have been affected there. Some have told me that by what they heard in Sermon, they had great Desire raised in their minds to be burthened with Sin, that so they might come to Christ: And then have got so great a sense of Sin and Guilt as they could well bear. Others that have come tame in great Distress, when I ask'd

them how they came to be in that Condition, answered, that while they were hearing some private Exhortations of the Minister, a great many of their Sins were brought to their Remembrance. They thought they had been doing nothing but sinning all their Days; that they were empty of all Good, and that they were undone without Christ. Some have told me,, they, met with great Opposition in going to attend upon the Ordinances, but they became resolute and went: And what Places of Scripture first fattened any Sense of Sin upon their Minds; how this was more and more increased, and what Text kept them from Despair amidst the greatest Terror one could readily be under. Others, that all Things in the World were now become tasteless to them, seeing the Danger their Souls were in. I have seen some sitting alone all in Tears, and when I ask'd them what was the Matter, they said, They were afraid left their Convictions should go off without any good Effect, and express'd a strong; Desire after Christ. Others that seem'd to be under great Concern, being asked what they wanted, said, Conviction of Sin and Faith in Christ. I have

been

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 been greatly surprised, to hearsuch a distinct Account of the provoking Nature of Sin, and the Terms, of our Acceptance with God, given by those that are reputed the most Ignorant, and who I believe knew scarce any Thing at all of religious Matters till this Work began. I cannot say that among all I have conversed with here, I have found one in Despair, but have heard them expressing a great Sense of their Inability to believe.

I have heard them expressing the highest Esteem of the Mercy of God, and the Mediation

40 A SHORT NARRATIVE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT CAMBUSLANG

of Christ; the most earnest Desire after an Interest in him; and telling the Promises and Declarations of Mercy, and Representations of Christ in the Scripture, that were the Foundation of their Hope, and praising Christ as One altogether lovely.

I have heard, them expressing a Sense of the Evil of Sin, and their own Vileness by it; earnest Desires after Perfection in Holiness, and Fears lest they should fall back into their former sinful State; mentioning the Promises that supported them under these Fears, and telling what Love and Joy, and Praise these produced, when cast into their Minds.

Their earnest Desires and diligent Endeavours after more Knowledge, the deep Sense, and a sweet Relish of Divine Truths they seem to have,

their

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their Readiness to apply what they hear to themselves, even these Things that discover more of the Corruption, of their Hearts, or Errors of their Lives to them, the pouring out of their Souls to God in Prayer, which they speak of, the Perplexity and Dejection I have seen them in, when, as they told me, they have not been able to do this, the Steadiness and Fixedness of their Minds on Spiritual Things, not only in stated Duties, but when about their Worldly Affairs, that they inform me of: Their Grief when vain Thoughts fill their Minds, and Restlessness till they recover their former Spirituality, Their charitable Dispositions towards Men, of which I could give a Variety of Instances of their great Care to do the Will of God, and Fear left they trust in their own Righteousness: These and other Things I have observed in or heard from them,

and about them, put it out of Doubt with me, that the Singer of God is in this Work, which I pray may more and more appear.

I am, Sir, Tours, &c.

Kilbryde, May
14th, 1742

DAVID CONNEL.
POSTSCRIPT.

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POSTSCRIPT.

I Need not write to you of that extraordinary Work at *Cambuslang* near *Glasgow*; seeing there is an Attested Narrative of it printed and sent to you: That Blessed Work is still spreading Glory to God, and is begun in the same Manner in many other Parishes, as *Calder*, *Kirkintilloch*, *Campsy*, *Kilsyth*, *Cumbernald*, *Bothwel*, &c. Great Changes are wrought on many of all Sorts, even on the vilest Sinners, O help us to praise the Lord for his surprizing Goodness to an unworthy Land. That Scripture in Jer. 51, 5. *For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of Hosts; though their Land was filled with Sin against the Holy One of Israel*, is remarkably fulfilled to us. I am, with Salutations, to your Spouse and Children.

Dear, Sir,

Dundee, June. Your most humble Servants
11th, 174a.

JO. WILLISON.

FINIS.

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