

Letter of Gustavus Vassa to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, *The Edinburgh Evening Courant*, Saturday, 26 May 1792

To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND now convened.

GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT me, one of the oppressed natives of Africa, to offer you the warmest thanks of a heart glowing with gratitude on the unanimous decision of your debate of this day—It filled me with love towards you. It is no doubt the indispensable duty of every man, who is a friend to religion and humanity, to give his testimony against that iniquitous branch of commerce the slave trade. It does not often fall to the lot of individuals to contribute to so important a moral and religious duty, as that of putting an end to a practice which may, without exaggeration, be stiled one of the greatest evils now existing on the earth.—The Wise Man saith, “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Provo xiv. 34. Gentlemen, permit me, on behalf of myself and my much oppressed countrymen, to offer you the warmest effusions of a heart overflowing with hope from your pious efforts. It is my constant prayer that these endeavours may prove successful—And with best wishes for your health, happiness temporal and spiritual, I am, Gentlemen,

Your most respectful humble servant, &c. &c.
GUSTAVUS VASSA the African.

At Mr. M'Laren's, turner, second stair above Chalmers's Close, High Street—where my Narrative is to be had.
Edinburgh, May 24, 1792.