

1 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 18 December 1769

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 11-12

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 104-106

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey at Catterick in Yorkshire

POSTMARK: Leeds

ENDORSEMENT: Answer'd Dec^{br}. 28. 1769 and promised to send Patrobas the next month.

Dec 18. 1769

Dear Sir

I think myself very much obliged to you for the care with which you looked over my pamphlet.¹ Could I //have// had the benefit of your remarks in time, I should probably have altered everything you object to; but as the thing was printed, I contented myself with cancelling the leaf which contained the passage that you objected to the most – I paid the postage of that packet, because the purpose of sending was only my own advantage, and therefore you should //not// have paid the postage of your answer – In the passage relating to education, I meant only that for divines, but I wish I had been more explicit. I beg your acceptance of a copy of the pamphlet, which I have sent enclosed to Mr Blackburne.² I have also sent you two letters from two Roman Catholics to Mr Seddon.³ They are the first intimations I have received of their being pleased with what I wrote. I am not acquainted with a single person of that persuasion. You may show the letters to the Archdeacon.⁴ He is too ungenerous⁵ to make any unfriendly use of them. You smile at my nostrum, as you call my sentiments concerning the poor papists, and I smile at your panic concerning them. I hope we shall continue to think for ourselves, to smile at, ~~–~~ and bear with one another. We see things in very different lights. The letters must be returned. – I presume you have, at length, seen my answer to Mr Venn,⁶ as I find the archdeacon has got his copy – I never see the public ledger,⁷ or any morning paper, nor have I much curiosity to see what is said about me, or my writings – I have sent to D^r Price⁸ an answer to Consistency in the London Chronicle but I left it to him to publish, or suppress it as he thought proper – I should not be at all surprised, if some restrictions were laid on the liberty of the press; and am not sorry that I have spoken my mind so freely before that time. I think I shall turn to Philosophy and scripture criticism. I am busy

¹ Probably Priestley's *A View of the Principles and Conduct of the Protestant Dissenters, with respect to the Civil and Ecclesiastical Constitution of England* (London, 1769) [Rutt, I, ii, 104].

² Francis Blackburne (1705-1787), Church of England clergyman and religious controversialist, Lindsey's father-in-law [ODNB].

³ John Seddon (1724-1770), dissenting minister and tutor [ODNB].

⁴ Francis Blackburne.

⁵ Rutt: generous [Rutt, I, i, 105].

⁶ Henry Venn (1725-1797), Church of England clergyman [ODNB]. The text referred to is Priestley's *Considerations on Differences of Opinion among Christians; with a Letter to the Reverend Mr. Venn, in answer to his Free and Full Examination of the Address to Protestant Dissenters, on the Subject of the Lord's Supper* (London, 1769). Priestley recorded in his *Memoirs* that 'The first of my controversial tracts was written here [at Leeds] in reply to some angry remarks on my Discourse on "the Lord's Supper," by Mr. Venn, a clergyman in the neighbourhood' [Rutt, I, i, 73].

⁷ *The Public Ledger* was printed daily (except Sundays) in London from the early 1760s.

⁸ Richard Price (1723-1791), philosopher, demographer, and political radical. In 1769, Price was minister at Poor Jewry Lane in London [ODNB].

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making some experiments, and in my letter to the Archdeacon you will see a scheme of a theological work I am about.

I shall like to see what D^r Law⁹ has written on the subject of literary property.¹⁰ – Shall we, think you, receive Mr Barker's¹¹ account of Satan, which the bishop¹² recommended to us? – I hear of a package of papers coming from Ireland, containing pieces of Duchal,¹³ Abernethy¹⁴ &c. I hope Patrobas¹⁵ will not disappoint me. The Repository shall live. How like you Clemens,¹⁶ now you see the whole of that article?¹⁷ I believe I shall change my signature in the next volume.

The Archdeacon inquires concerning the method of getting the petition signed at Leeds.¹⁸ It lay some time at the town clerk's, who is no friend to it; and where few cared to go to inquire for it. Then some gentlemen went about with it, but used no solicitations. Had that measure been taken at first, many more names would have been got. I am with my compliments to Mrs Lindsey Dear Sir yours sincerely

J Priestley

Leeds 18. De^{br}. 1769.

⁹ Edmund Law (1703-1787), bishop of Carlisle and theologian [ODNB].

¹⁰ Edmund Law, *Observations occasioned by the Contest about Literary Property* (Cambridge, 1770).

¹¹ ? Thomas Barker (1722-1809), theologian and meteorologist [ODNB], author of *An Inquiry into the Scripture Meaning of the Word Satan, and its Synonymous Terms, the Devil, or the Adversary, and the Wicked-One* (London, 1772).

¹² ? Edmund Law.

¹³ James Duchal (d. 1761), non-subscribing Presbyterian minister [ODNB]. Priestley published two articles by Duchal in the 1770 edition of the *Theological Repository*.

¹⁴ John Abernethy (1680-1740), Presbyterian minister [ODNB].

¹⁵ Patrobas was one of Lindsey's pseudonyms for articles published in the *Theological Repository*.

¹⁶ Clemens was one of Priestley's pseudonyms for articles published in the *Theological Repository*.

¹⁷ Clemens [Priestley], 'On the One Great End of the Life and Death of Christ, intended more especially to refute the Commonly-Received Doctrine of Atonement', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 17-45, 121-136, 195-218, 247-267, 327-353, 400-430.

¹⁸ Perhaps against the claim of the British parliament to tax the unrepresented British colonies [Rutt I, i, 106].