

8 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 4 November 1770

MS: Dr. Williams's Library MS. 12.12, f. 23-24

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 121-123

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

POSTMARK: Leeds

[(Nov 4. 1770)]

Dear Sir

I am glad that you approve of anything in my Essay on discipline,¹ notwithstanding the faults that I doubt not you justly find with it. However, I wrote it with as much circumspection as I am capable of; and you expect too much from me, if you look for anything better. A person who signs Daylight said something in my favour in the London Chronicle, and I was animadverted on with great virulence and great injustice by a Dissenter and Reviewer. I wrote a reply in my own name, but it is possible Mr Johnson² may show it to D^r Price,³ and they may prevent its publication, as they did by a similar thing about a year ago. If they do so, it may, perhaps, be as well.

At present //I am// busy in completing my philosophical apparatus, and in making some new experiments. I have just made //some// that I am going to draw up an account of for the Royal Society. For the same purpose, I have also just drawn up an account of some new electrical experiments of one Mr Henley⁴ of London, and I have the same service to render one Mr Ronayne⁵ of Cork in Ireland. My History of Electricity⁶ has made these, and many other electricians, whose labours I consider, in some measure, as my own. I am just beginning to compile the history of discoveries relating to light and colours.⁷ But I ask you pardon. These are things that you do not trouble yourself about; but they are at present uppermost in my mind, and therefore you must excuse my mentioning them.

In the printed sheets I sent you of the Repository, you will find another piece of D^r Duchal's,⁸ which I hope you will like as well as the other. I have several other pieces of the same author coming from Ireland.

I have not yet received the MS I expect from D^r Lardner's⁹ executor. I wrote to him about them very lately, and hope to receive them soon. However I rather suspect ~~that~~ they will not contain any thing very material.

¹ Priestley, *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters, on the Subject of Church Discipline; with a Preliminary Discourse, concerning the Spirit of Christianity, and the Corruption of it by False Notions of Religion* (London, 1770).

² Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

³ Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

⁴ William Henley (d. 1779), linen draper and electrical experimenter [ODNB]. See Priestley, 'An Account of a New Electrometer, contrived by Mr. William Henly, and of Several Electrical Experiments made by him, in a Letter from Dr. Priestley, F. R. S. to Dr. Franklin, F. R. S.', *Phil. Trans.*, LXII (1772).

⁵ Thomas Ronayne, author of *A Letter from Thomas Ronayne, Esq; to Benjamin Franklin, LL.D. F.R.S. inclosing an Account of some Observations on Atmospherical Electricity, in regard of Fogs, Mists, &c. With some Remarks, communicated by Mr. William Henly* (London, 1772).

⁶ Priestley, *The History and Present State of Electricity* (London, 1767).

⁷ Priestley, *The History and Present State of Discoveries relating to Vision, Light, and Colours* (London, 1772).

⁸ James Duchal (d. 1761), see 18 Dec 1769. The piece is 'An Essay on the Doctrine of Atonement', *Theol. Repos.*, II (1770), 328-345.

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You may make yourself very easy about the antagonist of Patrobos. He is not a very formidable one, and I print his piece¹⁰ merely to prove my impartiality. I shall be glad, however, if it hasten your sequel.¹¹

I have lately had several letters from Mr Enfield,¹² so penitent and ingenuous, that I cannot but esteem and love him; and so would you, if you knew him thoroughly, notwithstanding his late offence, and failure in point of friendship to me. I wish my controversy with him had never happened, but I hope some good will rise out of it.

Mr Turner¹³ lately preached a sermon at my place when a collection was made for the Infirmary in this town. It ~~will~~ is printed and will be sold for the benefit of the charity.¹⁴ He will not have a copy himself but what he pays for. Some will be sent to York immediately. You will see a paper of his in the next Repository of very great value on christianity having stood the test of Ridicule.

Paulinus is likely to have a controversy with W.W.¹⁵ You will see the prolusio in the same No. I do not yet know what loss I shall incur by this year's Repository. I shall chuse to be indemnified by person's taking sets of books, which they may give [a]mong their acquaintance, and I shall [[k]]no[[w]] amounts to keep, or money to return if the work afterwards sell.

I am, with compliments to Mrs Lindsey

Dear Sir

yours sincerely

J Priestley

Leeds 4 Nov^r. 1770.

⁹ Nathaniel Lardner (1684-1768), Presbyterian minister and patristic scholar [ODNB].

¹⁰ Barumensis [Samuel Badcock (1747-1788)], 'Objections to the Socinian Hypothesis', *Theol. Repos.*, II (1770), 441-450.

¹¹ Socrates Scholasticus [Lindsey], 'Remarks on the Objections to the Socinian Hypothesis', *Theol. Repos.*, III (1771), 106-111, 249-251.

¹² William Enfield (1741-1797), see 30 Aug 1770.

¹³ William Turner (1714-1794), see Mar 1770.

¹⁴ William Turner, *Beneficence recommended, in a Sermon preached to the Congregation of Protestant Dissenters, at Mill-Hill Chapel, in Leeds, October, 14th, 1770* (Leeds, 1770).

¹⁵ William Willets (1697-1779) [CSICM 1293], minister at Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. (1729-1769), author of 'A Vindication of St. Paul's Reasoning in Rom. v. 12-14, &c.', *Theol. Repos.*, II (1770), 304-30, 'Observations on Christ's Answer to the Sadducees, and on St. Paul's Reasoning concerning Melchizedec, in Answer to PAULINUS', *Theol. Repos.*, II (1770), 458-461.