

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS.12.12, f. 30-31

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey at Catterick Yorkshire

POSTMARK: Leeds

Leeds. 4 Feb. 1771.

Dear Sir

I shall send the copies of the Repository to Mr Reynolds¹ and D^r Chambers,² with the two sets to yourself; but I shall not load you with in the unreasonable manner you are so generous as to desire. You do not consider that the orders of these two gentlemen amount to 3.12.1, and yours to 4.16.1 ~~£1sd~~.

Please to acquaint the Archdeacon,³ that I am perfectly satisfied with his reason for not sending me an ans^r to the piece on the Intermediate State. He informs me that my invitation to Deists gives great offence, and is the cause of its ill success.⁴ And your friends think that the Objections ought to be answered at the same time that they are proposed. The former ~~is~~ is essential to the original design of the work, and the latter is absolutely impracticable. I am really surpris'd that any friends of the Repository should make such objections. It must be something totally different from what that work ever was, or pretended to be, that //they// wish to have established. So far am I from being able to promise an answer to all objections at the time they are made, that I cannot promise any answer at all. The same persons who object to Pyrrho,⁵ I dare say, object to Paulinus, and many other things written by myself. If the work cannot be supported on the open and liberal plan proposed in the Introduction to it, my name shall no more go along with it.

I do not recollect what I said of Mr Jebb's work,⁶ but I am sure I think of him, and his undertaking, with the greatest respect – As to D^r Taylor,⁷ your conjecture concerning

¹ Richard Reynolds (d. 1814), son of George Reynolds (d. 1769), archdeacon of Lincoln.

² William Chambers (1724?-1777), Church of England clergyman [ODNB]. 'Chambers developed a close sympathy with clergymen such as Francis Blackburne who objected in principle to compulsory clerical subscription to the Thirty-Nine Articles. In 1771-2 Chambers gave Lindsey full support in the organization of the Feathers tavern petition for the abolition of compulsory subscription to the articles. The petition was rejected by the House of Commons on 6 February 1772 and, more summarily, on 5 May 1774. On the latter occasion Chambers was present in the Commons gallery with Lindsey, Richard Price, and Joseph Priestley' [G. M. Ditchfield, 'Chambers, William (1724?-1777)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, Sept 2004; online edn.].

³ Francis Blackburne (1705-1787), see 18 Dec 1769.

⁴ See 'The Introduction, explaining at large the Nature and Use of the Work', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 3-16: 'this publication will arise from its being open, not only to all denominations of christians, but to persons who disbelieve in christianity, and revelation in general. In this repository not only will room be given to the freest objections to natural or revealed religion, but they are sincerely requested; and nothing that is new shall be rejected, if it is expressed in decent terms'.

⁵ William Graham, minister at Warley, Halifax (1742-1763). Under the pseudonym of Pyrrho Graham was the author of 'Objections to the Conduct of the Apostles, in their application of Miraculous Powers', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 184-194, 'PYRRHO'S Reply to his Opponents with respect to the Conduct of the Apostles', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 59-65, 'Observations concerning Inspiration', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 462-464, 'A Query on 2 Cor. xi 32', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 464-466.

⁶ John Jebb (1736-1786), see 23 Dec 1770.

⁷ John Taylor (1694-1761), Presbyterian minister, divinity tutor at the Warrington academy [ODNB].

my opinion of his writings in general may be right; but to you I shall always express my real sentiments, from whatever causes they may spring. I was personally acquainted with the Doctor, and we never had a shadow of difference, and interference was intirely out of the question.

You will be suprised at the subject of my Postscript,⁸ but I think you will not be displeased with it. I will send you a copy by the next news man.

This day I sent you a few copies of my Proposals,⁹ which I altered according to your advice as far as I could, without making it worse, as I thought, in other respects. I tried to mend all the passages, but could not please myself – I also sent D^r Lardner's piece on the creation. It belongs to Mr Jennings;¹⁰ his executor, who sent it to me, in order to its being reprinted in the Repository; and who is much displeased with me that I will not consent to do it. Very few copies were sold, & the rest perished by an accident. I do not think it would do the author any credit, and it contains nothing original. Please to return it, if possible, by the next newsman; as I propose to take it with me to London, this day sennight; which time I have now fixed for setting out. Can I do you, or the Archdeacon,¹¹ any service there? If I can, command me freely.

The person you inquire after is Mr Caredale,¹² dissenting minister at ~~2~~ Evesham in Worcestershire. I have heard from him several times. He is, by all accounts, a most excellent man, one after your own heart.

I have received a curious anonymous letter from Norwich, informing me, that Mr Cowper,¹³ of Brook, near that city, is the author of some remarks on my Essay on Government in the London Magazine.¹⁴ I will send you the letter itself, as it relates to the Archdeacon as much as me, along with the Address.¹⁵ Mr Enfield¹⁶ told me he had a correspondence with a clergyman of some eminence near Norwich. I dare say it is the same person. He distinguished himself lately by his controversy with the Monthly Reviewers, on account of his Four Dissertations which were also criticised in the Repository.¹⁷ With compliments to Mrs Lindsey yours sincerely J Priestley

⁸ To Priestley's *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters, as such* (London, 1771), second edn. In the postscript Priestley addresses 'the growing neglect of attendance on public worship, among those who are called *rational dissenters*' (129).

⁹ Priestley, *Proposals for printing by Subscription, The History and Present State of Discoveries relating to Vision, Light, and Colours* (Leeds, 1771).

¹⁰ See *Will of Reverend Nathaniel Lardner, Doctor in Divinity of Shoreditch, Middlesex, 27 July 1768* [PROB 11/941]; *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the late Reverend Nathaniel Lardner*, ed. J. Jennings (1769).

¹¹ Francis Blackburne, see 18 Jan 1769.

¹² Paul Caredale (1705-1775), minister at Oat Street, Evesham (1733-1775) [CSICM 185]. Caredale contributed two articles to the *Theological Repository* under the pseudonym of Philelutherus Vigorniesis. See 'The Christian Creed', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 136-140, 'A Critical Enquiry concerning the Phrase "the Form of God" when applied to Jesus Christ', *Theol. Repos.*, II (1770), 141-154, 219-230.

¹³ Samuel Cooper (1725-1783), author of *Four Dissertations I. On Eternal Punishments II. On Christ's cursing the Fig-Tree III. On the Mistranslation of the New-Testament IV. On Christ's Temptation* (London, 1769).

¹⁴ See *The London Magazine. Or, Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer*, XXXIX (1770), 564-565; *The London Magazine. Or, Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer*, XL (1771), 90-91.

¹⁵ Priestley, *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters, as such* (London, 1771).

¹⁶ William Enfield (1741-1797), see 30 Jul 1770.

¹⁷ See Eusebius [William Turner], 'Remarks on Four Dissertations, lately published, on some Difficult Texts in the New Testament', *Theol. Repos.*, I (1769), 387-396.