

16 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 20 April 1772

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 38

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ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Catterick

[Apr 20. 1772]

Dear Sir

I take the first opportunity of informing you of my return from London and desiring your acceptance of a small pamphlet which I printed when I was there. Having now completed the scheme of Appeal,<sup>1</sup> I beg you would look over the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition,<sup>2</sup> and the Illustrations<sup>3</sup> and give me any hints that may occur to you for their improvement as I intend to print a neat œ edition of the whole in one, at the same time that the three pamphlets shall continue to be sold separately.

Our bill went triumphantly thru the house of Commons; but it is supposed the bishops may prevent its passing the house of Lords, tho' I should think they will hardly chuse to bear all the odium of it.<sup>4</sup> Whether we succeed or not I hope some good will be done by our attempt as well as by yours.

I had the pleasure of seeing D<sup>r</sup> Jebb,<sup>5</sup> father of Mr Jebb<sup>6</sup> at Cambridge, and the intimate friend of D<sup>r</sup> Hartley.<sup>7</sup> This gave me very great satisfaction. The story of Hartley's Observations having //been// written more at large, and the illustrations suppressed, is void of all foundation.

I am at present in haste

Dear Sir

yours sincerely

J Priestley

Leeds. 20 Apr<sup>l</sup> 1772.

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<sup>1</sup> Priestley, *An Appeal to the Serious and Candid Professors of Christianity* (London, 1771; possibly an earlier edition printed at Leeds 1770/1771).

<sup>2</sup> A fourth edition of the *Appeal* was published in 1772.

<sup>3</sup> Priestley, *Familiar Illustrations of Certain Passages of Scripture* (London, 1772).

<sup>4</sup> 'On 3 April 1772 Priestley attended the Commons, possibly with Johnson in tow, to hear the dissenters' bill for the abolition of subscription introduced by the dissenting MP for Preston and future President of Warrington Academy, Sir Henry Hoghton. There were only two opposing voices [...] and the bill was allowed to pass without a division. Six weeks later, however, it was rejected in the Lords, chiefly owing to the unanimous opposition of the bishops [Helen Braithwaite, *Romanticism, Publishing and Dissent: Joseph Johnson and the Cause of Liberty* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003), 23].

<sup>5</sup> John Jebb (d. 1787), dean of Cashell, Ireland.

<sup>6</sup> John Jebb (1736-1786), see 23 Dec 1770.

<sup>7</sup> David Hartley (bap. 1705, d. 1757), philosopher and physician, author of *Observations on Man, his Frame, his Duty, and his Expectations* (London, 1749) [ONDB].