

17 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, May 1772

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 39-40
PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 172-174
ENDORSEMENT: May 1772

[May 1772]¹

Dear Sir

I send you what is new in the second edition of the Triumph of Truth.² It is the printers rough proof, and if you answer immediately, I shall have an opportunity of hearing, and attending to your remarks before it be printed off.

I flatter myself that the extracts from Penn³ will please you. I am sorry that I have not room for more; but as they are only intended to give an idea of that man's sentiments, and of the free manner in which he expressed them, these may suffice. It will hardly be said that these as well as the other are an invention of my own. I have now got a few dates relating to Elwall's trial, which, I think, determine it to 1726. These I propose to print at the back of the title page.⁴

I fancy my friend Mr Lee⁵ was mistaken when he informed [[me]] that only one lay Lord spoke against the Dissenters bill. I have heard nothing from London about it since I wrote to you last, and therefore cannot tell you what will be done in consequence of it. Many of the ministers, I know, were displeas'd with the conduct of their committee and when I left them, they did not expect to be thank'd for their trouble. But the discontented were chiefly those who e expected to have been of the committee themselves, or who disapproved of the declaration which was to have been substituted instead of the ~~?~~ subscription: A few of the orthodox, I believe, wish'd for no alteration. All, except these //last//, I doubt not would join in an application to parliament by petition, but whether this method will be adopted I cannot tell. I never expect to see the Dissenters agree in any thing, nor do I see how this can be more reasonably expected than that all establishments should agree. Besides I rather think the managers in London will be tired out. To make the motion any where else would answer no end at all, so that, I imagine, things will remain as they are, unless the late noise should be echoed in a few pamphlets, in which I shall have no concern. I dream'd, indeed, the last night, that I had address'd a letter to the bishop of Llandaff⁶ (Pray is he not L^d North's⁷ brother) in which I said bolder things than I have yet done, but the whole scheme vanish'd with the dream. While this reluctance to controversial writing continues, you may be easy for D^r

¹ This text is in Belsham's hand [Rutt, I, i, 172]. The letter is undated in Rutt's edition.

² Priestley, *The Triumph of Truth; being an Account of the Trial of Mr. E. Elwall, for Heresy and Blasphemy, at Stafford Assizes, before Judge Denton* (London, 1775?), second edn. ESTC dates the second edition to 1775?, although this letter suggests it may have been earlier.

³ William Penn's *Sandy Foundations shaken* added to the second edition of *The Triumph of Truth*.

⁴ See the 'Advertisement' on the second page of Priestley's *The Triumph of Truth*, second edn.

⁵ John Lee (1743-93), see Mar 1770.

⁶ Shute Barrington (1734-1826), bishop of Llandaff [ODNB].

⁷ Frederick North, second earl of Guilford [known as Lord North] (1732-1792), prime minister 1770-1782 [ODNB].

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Dawson;⁸ but if ever the disposition to that kind of writing return, I may perhaps throw //him// and half a dozen more into one Dunciad.⁹

This week, or the next, I print a small pamphlet, containing a description of my method of impregnating water &c with fixed air. The drawings are in the engraver's hands.¹⁰

We have begun to print the Repository, and I am afraid it will be the last N^o. It will contain some useful articles. We begin with a pretty large paper of Mr Turner's¹¹ on the doctrine of Atonement.¹² I have written a few more observations on the harmony of the evangelists, and may perhaps write something else. I have received an answer to Bereanus.¹³

As I intend to republish the small pamphlets in one treatise, I wish you [[would]] keep an interleaved copy of them and at your leisure suggest any corrections or improvements that may occur to you. I wish also, you would take the trouble to look into what I have written on the Evidences of X^{ty}, for the second Vol of Institutes.¹⁴ The papers are at present in Mr Cappe's¹⁵ hands; but I hope he will not keep them long.

Mr Turner and I talk of paying a visit to Mr Cappe, will you give us the meeting?

I am, with compliments to M^{rs} Lindsay

Dear Sir yours sincerely

J Priestley.

⁸ Benjamin Dawson (1729-1814), Church of England clergyman and philologist [ODNB].

⁹ Alexander Pope's *Dunciad* (1728).

¹⁰ Priestley, *Directions for impregnating Water with Fixed Air; in order to communicate to it the Peculiar Spirit and Virtues of Pyrmont Water, and other Mineral Waters of a Similar Nature* (London, 1772).

¹¹ William Turner (1714-1794), see 30 Mar 1770.

¹² Eusebius [William Turner], 'An Essay on the meaning of Atonement', *Theol. Repos.*, III (1771), 385-433.

¹³ Rationalis [William Hazlitt], 'An Answer to Bereanus on the Pre-Existence of Christ', *Theol. Repos.*, III (1771), 435-444.

¹⁴ Priestley, *Institutes of Natural and Revealed Religion* (London, 1772-1774).

¹⁵ Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770.