

22 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 20 July 1786

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 48-49

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 394-396<sup>1</sup>

ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

ENDORSEMENT: July 20: 1786

July 20 1786. Birm.

Dear friend

I now inclose a few letters, which you will please to return as soon as convenient.

I am glad to hear of M<sup>rs</sup> King's<sup>2</sup> release, as it will be a great relief to M<sup>rs</sup> Rayner<sup>3</sup> – I am reduced to my vegetables, but with a prospect of good success as ~~all~~ the symptoms of gall stones are now gone.

I shall be glad to see the new N<sup>o</sup> of your Commentaries.<sup>4</sup> The last was particularly valuable. If you were to write ever so often in defence of unitarianism, you would always, I think, find something new; and it must be exhibited in every view, to counteract the attempts of the trinitarians, who leave no stone unturned to promote their cause.

I have long had it upon my mind to write an Address to the Jews,<sup>5</sup> and have now finished it, and when it is transcribed, I will send it to you. I think to print it first in English (it will only be a small pamphlet) and if it be likely to do good, shall get it ~~to~~ translated into Hebrew by the learned Jew in this town who has promised to do it for me. They were never addressed by an Unitarian before; so that there is some little chance of being attended to, by some of them.

I have finished ~~to~~ my Essay on the perpetuity of Moses's law,<sup>6</sup> and shall put about two thirds of it into the next N<sup>o</sup> of the Repository, which will be published the first of next month. I do not expect to make many converts to my opinion.

I inclose a guinea, Mr Russell's<sup>7</sup> subscription to D<sup>r</sup> Jebb's works.<sup>8</sup>

Desire Mr Johnson<sup>9</sup> to send me Fell's Reply to Mr Farmer.<sup>10</sup> It is a subject that I give some attention to

My wife who is better desires to be remembered to you both,  
yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's  
most affectionately  
J Priestley

P.S. What are they doing about the New Academy?

---

<sup>1</sup> Rutt's edition dates the letter July 14 1786.

<sup>2</sup> unidentified.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>4</sup> *Commentaries and Essays published for the Society for Promoting the Knowledge of the Scriptures*, 2 vols. (London, 1784-1796).

<sup>5</sup> Priestley, *Letters to the Jews; inviting them to an Amicable Discussion of the Evidences of Christianity* (Birmingham, 1786).

<sup>6</sup> Hermas [Priestley], 'Of the Perpetuity of the Jewish Ritual', *Theol. Repos.*, VI (1788), 1-21.

<sup>7</sup> William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 July 1786.

<sup>8</sup> John Jebb, *The Works Theological, Medical, Political, and Miscellaneous, of John Jebb, M.D. F.R.S. With Memoirs of the Life of the Author; by John Disney* (London, 1787).

<sup>9</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

<sup>10</sup> John Fell, *Dæmoniacks. An Enquiry into the Heathen and the Scripture Doctrine of Dæmons. In which the Hypotheses of the Rev. Mr. Farmer, and Others on this Subject are particularly considered* (London, 1779).

22 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 20 July 1786

I hope M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey is better for the journey tho you do not mention it.