

23 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 20 March 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 50-51

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 402-403

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

Birm 20 March 1787.

Dear friend

I take this opportunity, by means of Mr Kenrick,¹ to inclose a letter for Mr French at Ware,² which I beg you would forward to him; together with a copy of my Letters to D^r Horne &c.³ I also inclose Mr Tayleurs, & Mr Farmer's Letters.⁴ How carefully the latter avoids giving his opinion on the subject of arianism. I have a letter from Mr Robson of Newcastle,⁵ that will please you. But as I wish to shew it to Mr Russell,⁶ I will bring it with me. I now fully intend to be with you on tuesday next, and shall call upon you before I go any where else, getting out of the coach at the turnstile, or rather in Piccadilly //Oxford Street, where I remember the coach always waits a long time. I need not say that I promise myself much pleasure from our interview; but we must not forget that there is no earthly happiness that is not subject to disappointment and alloy.

I wish you would inform Mr Johnson⁷ that I have not yet received the books he said he had got for me out of various Catalogues. I put into the parcel the new edition of my Letters to the Jews.⁸

The Repository will be printed off this week, but it will sufficiently appear that the very bold article is not mine, by other articles that are so. I shall have two, one on some Difficulties in the interpretation of prophecies,⁹ and the other an account of Mr Palmer,¹⁰ and his article intended for the Repository;¹¹ the former signed Pamphilus, and the latter with my own name. I ~~forwarn you~~ //forwarn// you that Idiota¹² will stagger even yourself, and much more the other strong minded persons you speak of in London. We in

¹ ? Timothy Kenrick (1759-1804), Unitarian minister and tutor. After leaving the academy at Daventry in January 1784 Kenrick had taken up the post of assistant minister to James Manning at George's Meeting, Exeter, and was ordained there on 28 July 1785 [ODNB].

² ? John French, minister at Ware, Hertfordshire [CSICM 864].

³ George Horne (1730-1792), bishop of Norwich [ODNB]. See Priestley, *Letters to Dr. Horne, Dean of Canterbury; to the Young Men, who are in a Course of Education for the Christian Ministry, at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge* (Birmingham, 1787).

⁴ William Tayleur (1713-1796), benefactor of Priestley and correspondent of Priestley and Lindsey [Rutt, I, i, 215-216] and Hugh Farmer (1714/15-1787), minister at Walthamstow, Essex [ODNB] [Rutt, I, i, 334].

⁵ William Robson, ship and keel builder, one of the leading laymen at the Pandon Bank Chapel, Newcastle upon Tyne [Stephen Harbottle, *The Reverend William Turner: Dissent and Reform in Georgian Newcastle Upon Tyne* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1997), 32].

⁶ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁷ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

⁸ Priestley, *Letters to the Jews; inviting them to an Amicable Discussion of the Evidences of Christianity. The Second Edition, with some Additions* (Birmingham, 1787).

⁹ Pamphilus [Priestley], 'Difficulties in the Interpretation of some Prophecies not yet fulfilled, and Queries relating to them', *Theol. Repos.*, VI (1788), 203-208.

¹⁰ John Palmer (1742-1786), Unitarian minister [ODNB].

¹¹ Priestley, 'An Account of the Rev. John Palmer, and of some Articles intended by him for this Repository', *Theol. Repos.*, VI (1788), 217-224.

¹² Mr Garnham of Bury Suffolk, 'An Inquiry into the Time at which the Kingdom of Heaven will commence', *Theol. Repos.*, VI (1788), 244.

23 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 20 March 1787

the country think they must be men of strong minds indeed, who can believe that any mere man is naturally impeccable or infallible. But, as you say, more of this when we meet.

I have lately composed two sermons which I intend to give you. I have another on the anvil, and intend to compose more, a kind [of] suite, on the spirit and influence of the gospel.

I hear that D^r Horsley¹³ is publishing on the subject of the Test Act.¹⁴ I hope he will be properly and speedily answer'd. I wish Mr Walker¹⁵ of Nottingham would do it. He would do it with spirit.

I shall hope to hear from you before I set out. In the mean time,

I am, Dear friend,

yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley.

I have not yet heard of the arrival of the Letters.

¹³ Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

¹⁴ Samuel Horsley, *A Review of the Case of the Protestant Dissenters; with reference to the Corporation and Test Acts, in which the Reasons alleged by the Non-Conformists for the Repeal of those Laws, are examined under Three General Heads, to which they are reducible, of Grounds of Claim, Religious Motives, and Political Considerations, and shewn to fail in each Branch* (London, 1790) [no earlier edition listed on ESTC].

¹⁵ George Walker (1734?-1807), Presbyterian minister and mathematician. Walker had become colleague to John Simpson (1746-1812) at High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham in autumn 1774, where he remained for twenty-four years [ODNB].