

26 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 11 June 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 56

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 409-410

Dear friend

I take the opportunity of Mr Finch's¹ going to town to give you these few lines. On Sunday I sent you a letter for the Gentleman's Magazine, which I hope has come to hand, and shall be glad to know whether it can be inserted.² I think also to advertise my History³ on the cover of the Monthly Review, with a short notice respecting Mr Howes.⁴ I shall send it to you in time. By proceeding in this manner, one pamphlet in the course of a year may answer our purpose perhaps better than more. It will shew that we are not disturbed with hasty censures, and trust to serious argument. Mr Howes is certainly intitled to no sort of respect.

I have received D^d Levi's Letters.⁵ They are below my expectation, so much that I hardly think it will be worth while to reply to them [but give] notice that I [hope] to receive something more to the purpose. I shall draw up something, and send it to you soon. You will hear what is said of it.

I have received D^r Jebb's Works.⁶ It is much beyond my expectation, and does D^r Disney⁷ much credit. Mr Russell⁸ says that in writing the life he must have been assisted by you.

Mr Coates⁹ is just come from London, and tells me something that would give me much concern if I could think it was true. He says you were present, and can inform me. It is that D^r Price¹⁰ in ~~the~~ large company ~~at~~ //in// which you and D^r Kippis¹¹ were present, said "he should not be surpris'd if I should become a deist" and that D^r Kippis, as well as yourself, replied to him in my favour. I hope that Mr Coates has made some mistake¹²

I am, Dear friend,
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley.

Birm. 11 June 1787.

¹ William Finch, Priestley's son-in-law through his daughter Sarah.

² See *Gent. Mag.*, LVII (1787), 462.

³ Priestley, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ*, 4 vols. (Birmingham, 1786).

⁴ Thomas Howes (1728-1814), see 17 May 1786.

⁵ David Levi (1742-1801), writer on Judaism [ODNB]. See David Levi, *Letters to Dr. Priestley, in Answer to those he addressed to the Jews; inviting them to an Amicable Discussion of the Evidences of Christianity* (London, 1787).

⁶ 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* were collected by John Disney and published in three volumes in 1787 (London, 1787).

⁷ John Disney (1746-1816), Unitarian minister, colleague with Lindsey at Essex Street Chapel (1772-1793) and sole minister (1793-1805) [ODNB], author of Jebb's 'Memoirs', attached as a preface to the *Works*.

⁸ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁹ John Coates (1765?-1836), assistant minister to Radcliffe Schofield at the Old Meeting, Birmingham [CSICM 1013] [Rutt, I, i, 339].

¹⁰ Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

¹¹ Andrew Kippis (1725-1795), see 17 Feb 1771. In June 1787 Kippis was minister of the Presbyterian congregation meeting in Princes Street, Westminster [ODNB].

¹² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.