

27 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 17 June 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, p. 57
PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 410-411
ENDORSEMENT: D^f P. June 17: 1787

Dear friend

I fear I give you too much trouble by sending you my papers. But I cannot satisfy myself if, in matters of controversy, I do not submit my pieces to your better judgement.

On second thoughts, I am of opinion that it will be right to take the opportunity of Mr Levi's¹ Answer,² poor as it is, to address the Jews once more.³ It will tend to keep up their attention, and may bring forth something of more value. But, if you have leisure, peruse what I send, and give me your opinion.

I have talked with Mr Hawkes⁴ about the case of Mr Dinwiddie,⁵ and we are clear that he cannot be ordained here. In my opinion, it had best be done in your own chapel, and if you think it of any consequence, I would attend, and take any part that should be thought proper. To ordain an unitarian minister, as such, may be of consequence, and have some effect. Your meeting is the proper place, as the head quarters of unitarianism, the great mother church, and which I hope will have many daughters.

I am very glad to hear what you say of the report concerning D^f Price,⁶ to which, tho' positively related, I was very unwilling to give credit.⁷

You will see that I have not quite concluded my last letter, but I have nothing very material to add. Please to return the MS as soon as you conveniently can.

Next sunday is our charity sermon to be preached by Mr Yates of Liverpool.⁸

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

Birm. 17 June 1787.

¹ David Levi (1742-1801), see 11 Jun 1786.

² 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).

³ Priestley published his *Letters to the Jews. Part II. Occasioned by Mr. David Levi's Reply to the Former Letters* in 1787.

⁴ William Hawkes (1731-1796), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁵ ? William Dinwiddie (1761-1834). Dinwiddie was ordained on 7 July 1795 and served at Chapel Lane, Wigan between 1795 and 1832 [CSICM].

⁶ Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

⁷ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁸ John Yates (1755-1826), Unitarian minister to the congregation at Kaye Street Chapel, Liverpool (1777-1791) and at Paradise Street (1791-1823) [ODNB].