

29 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 27 July 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 60-61

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, 413-414

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

[July 27. 1787]

Dear friend

I have received the Two Tracts for Mr Russell,<sup>1</sup> but not Mr Wyche's piece<sup>2</sup> for myself. If you call again, I dare say you will still find it at Mr Johnson's.<sup>3</sup> The Great Doctor,<sup>4</sup> which at your recommendation, I sent for is a poor business indeed. Mr Madan's<sup>5</sup> (which he sent me) is the //most// violent and menacing that I have yet seen.

The Bishop of our diocese<sup>6</sup> was here last sunday confirming, and to each person confirmed he gave a small tract<sup>7</sup> on confirmation, and another against socinianism, & myself (as I am told) in particular. I have not yet seen it.

I long much to see M.A.,<sup>8</sup> yet think I should not see it before it be printed. † I hope it will not be unnecessarily delayed. My own Reply to Mr Howes<sup>9</sup> &c may rest till the winter. If he makes no reply to my Letter in the G. Magazine,<sup>10</sup> I shall send him (open to you) a private letter, to inform him that there is such a letter &c and that it behoves him to take some notice of it. Such conduct as his, and D<sup>r</sup> Horsley's,<sup>11</sup> must be exposed, as an example to others.

~~2-~~ Mr Christie's Letter<sup>12</sup> to you was given to Mr Tayleur.<sup>13</sup> I sent him last week a second from Mr Palmer,<sup>14</sup> with directions to send it to you.

I am glad of your opportunity of giving a living as it [[is]] another evident proof of your disinterestedness.

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<sup>1</sup> William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

<sup>2</sup> John Wiche (1718-1794), General Baptist minister [ODNB]. The work referred to is Wiche's *Observations on the Debate now in Agitation concerning the Divine Unity; in a Letter, addressed to the Reverend Mr. E. W. Whitaker, of Canterbury* (Maidstone, 1787).

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770. Johnson is listed on the title page of the work.

<sup>4</sup> Possibly Alexander Geddes, *Letter to the Rev. Dr. Priestley; in which the Author attempts to prove, by One Prescriptive Argument, that the Divinity of Jesus Christ was a Primitive Tenet of Christianity* (London, 1787).

<sup>5</sup> Martin Madan (1726-1790), see 14 Jul 1787. The text is *Letters to Joseph Priestley, LL.D. F.R.S. Occasioned by his Late Controversial Writings* (London, 1787).

<sup>6</sup> ? Richard Hurd (1720-1808), bishop of Worcester [ODNB].

<sup>7</sup> ? *Thoughts on the Progress of Socinianism; with an Enquiry into the Cause and the Cure. In a Letter humbly addressed to Learned, Orthodox, and Candid Ministers of all Denominations: with a Particular View to the Writings of Dr. Priestley. To which is added a Letter to Dr. Price, on his Late Sermons on the Christian Doctrine* (London, 1787).

<sup>8</sup> Lindsey, *Vindiciæ Preistleianæ; an Address to the Students of Oxford and Cambridge; occasioned by a Letter to Dr. Priestley* (London, 1788).

<sup>9</sup> Priestley's letter 'Relating to Mr. Howes's Appendix of his Fourth Volume of Observations on Books' was published as part of his *Defences of Unitarianism for the Year 1787* (Birmingham, 1788).

<sup>10</sup> See *Gent. Mag.*, LVII (1787), 462.

<sup>11</sup> Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>12</sup> William Christie (1750-1823), see 14 Jul 1787.

<sup>13</sup> William Tayleur, (1713-1796), see 20 March 1787.

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Fyshe Palmer (1747-1802), see 14 Jul 1787.

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With this you will receive two copies of my Sermon, and of another N<sup>o</sup> of the Repository, one for yourself, and another for M<sup>rs</sup> Rayner.<sup>15</sup> I also inclose a list of presents, and wish you to add any others that occur to you. I thank you for thinking of Mr Constable.<sup>16</sup> This I think not so proper for him. But do as you think right.

I thank you for your kind attention to my interest. Tho disappointed, I shall do very well. All things are sure to be right ultimately. The two Mr Wilkinson's<sup>17</sup> are entirely separated, and my expectations //from them// are less than ever. My eldest son, who is now under the elder, has nothing but his board, no tea, or clothes; so that even he will be, for I know not how long, a considerable expence to me.

I hope to have made considerable progress in my Ecclesiastical History<sup>18</sup> before I see you in the spring. We are waiting for paper to print the Lectures on History.<sup>19</sup> They will employ us between three and four months. But I have little more to do to them.

My wife is out on an little tour with Miss [Vaug]han<sup>20</sup> and Mr W<sup>m</sup> V<sup>21</sup> to see the iron brid[ge &c]

I expect their return tomorrow

I am Dear Friend

yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's

most affectionately

J Priestley

Birm. 27 July 1787.

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<sup>15</sup> Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>16</sup> William Constable, benefactor of Priestley [Rutt, I, i, 214].

<sup>17</sup> John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786, and William Wilkinson (1744-1808), ironmaster [ODNB].

<sup>18</sup> Priestley, *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire*, 2 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>19</sup> Priestley, *Lectures on History, and General Policy; to which is prefixed, an Essay on a Course of Liberal Education for Civil and Active Life* (Birmingham, 1788).

<sup>20</sup> unidentified.

<sup>21</sup> William Vaughan (1752-1850) [ODNB].