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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London
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Castle head 9 Sep^{br}. 1787.

Dear friend

You made me very happy by the receipt of your letter, especially as it gave me an account of you & M^{rs} Lindsey recovering your fatigue, and health. I hope you will continue to live so agreeably as you do some time longer, whatever become of D^r Horne.¹ Let him enjoy his triumph, provided you enjoy your health.

By your account of D^r Price's Appendix,² it may be proper for me to take some notice of it, in my //next// annual pamphlet³ on the subject of this controversy. If I had his book here, I could very conveniently do every //thing// I wish with respect to it. I have brought D^r Geddes's pamphlet⁴ with me, and have written, and transcribed, my answer to it. I have the fullest confidence that you will not be displeas'd with it. He has given me great advantage indeed. I have already three articles for my publication, and D^r Price's Appendix will probably make a fourth. D^r Parr⁵ has preached a Sermon at Coventry on the subject, and if he publish it, as I think he will, it will [[make]] a fifth article – Among these Articles I include the Undergraduate.⁶ For I think we may each of us say something, in a different manner, without at all interfering with one another, and ~~you~~ mine I foresee will be ready a considerable time before yours. When you see what I propose to say, I think you will be convinc'd of the propriety of my proposal, and even derive advantage from it when you come to write. I shall address the students, and consider him as one of their body. As you, with great propriety, take so large a scope, you must have time – I shall go to Kendal the next week, and shall probably send you my Letter to D^r Geddes⁷ by the stage coach.

Besides some philosophical treatises, I brought with me Cicero de Natura Deorum,⁸ which I have nearly read. If it was well translated, & read by unbelievers, it would have a good effect, in shewing the miserable uncertainty the heathens were in on such an important subject I have also read a great deal in Buchanan's poems⁹ especially his Baptistes and Jephtha¹⁰ and some books of the Sphaera¹¹ I think [[him]] the very best

¹ George Horne (1730-1792), see 20 Mar 1787.

² Richard Price's Appendix, attached to the second edition of his *Sermons on the Christian Doctrine as received by the Different Denominations of Christians. To which are added, Sermons on the Security and Happiness of a Virtuous Course, on the Goodness of God, and the Resurrection of Lazarus* (London, 1787).

³ Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Year 1787* (Birmingham, 1788).

⁴ Alexander Geddes (1737-1802), Roman Catholic priest and biblical scholar [ODNB]. The pamphlet is *A 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).

⁵ Samuel Parr (1747-1825), curate of Hatton in Warwickshire [ODNB].

⁶ George Horne.

⁷ Published in *Defences of Unitarianism for the Year 1787* (1788).

⁸ Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC- 43 BC), *De Natura Deorum* (On the Nature of the Gods).

⁹ George Buchanan (1506-1582), poet, historian and administrator [ODNB].

¹⁰ Buchanan's *Baptistes* (1542) and *Jephthes* were two plays on biblical themes [ODNB].

of Later Poets //the// antients ~~–~~ //not// excepted. I have got from him a very pretty motto for the Lectures on History¹² I am printing tho I have a very proper one from Cicero de Leg[ibus]¹³ which I have also with me – I am also rea[ding] for the third time Petrarch's¹⁴ De Contemptu mundi¹⁵ and his Dialogue with S^t Austin, of which there is a large extract in the Memoirs of his Life 3 vols 4^{to16}

I have told you that I intend to write some memoirs of myself, to be published after my death.¹⁷ I have begun them here. I shall shew the work to you and M^{rs} Lindsey. I do not mean to make it large, and may nearly finish it while I am here. With my wife's best respects yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's most affectionately J Priestley

¹¹ Buchanan's *De Sphaera*, a poem in five books, written between the 1550s and 1570s, on the Ptolemaic system of cosmology [ODNB].

¹² 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). The motto reads 'Juvat exhaustos iterare labores, et sulcata meis percurrere litora remis', from Buchanan's 'Franciscanus and Fratres'.

¹³ Cicero's *De Legibus* (On the Laws).

¹⁴ Francesco Petrarca or Petrarch (1304 -1374), Italian poet and humanist.

¹⁵ *De Contemptu Mundi* (On the Contempt of the World), a moral treatise consisting of three dialogues between the author and St. Augustine.

¹⁶ unidentified.

¹⁷ Priestley's memoirs were published by Johnson in 1806-1807 as *Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestley: to the Year 1795 / written by Himself: with a Continuation, to the Time of his Decease, by his Son Joseph Priestley: and Observations on his Writings, by Thomas Cooper ... and the Rev. William Christie* (London, J. Johnson, 1806-1807).