

33 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 28 October 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 68-69

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, p. 419

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

POSTMARK: Oct 29 1787

[Oct 28. 1787]

Dear friend

I take the first opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your very valuable, and altogether unexpected, packet. M<sup>rs</sup> Rayner's<sup>1</sup> present fully compensates for all that I expect to find deficient in the subscription to my experiments this year, and I shall write to her the next packet I make up for you. In the mean time, please to present my most thankful acknowledgments.

Your account I really ~~?~~ cannot allow, as I know of no debt for my pamphlets. You will allow me therefore when I see you, to rectify this. When I give you so much trouble about them before publication, so that they are in a great measure your own, it would be hard indeed to pay for them afterwards.

On the day you wrote to me, you would receive, I hope, my MSS &c the sheets of the Lectures<sup>2</sup> I would not have you return at all, and only, at your entire leisure, within about six weeks from that time, I wish you to peruse them. It is a task I ought not to impose upon you; but I am got into the habit of considering you as a part of myself, and on that account may sometimes lay too much upon you.

You will find your queries answered in the letter inclosed in the parcell. I shall send the N<sup>o</sup> of the Bible<sup>3</sup> as they are printed and hope you will not be displeas'd with it. Their want of paper [giv]es me more time. What I have do[ne] has given me such a taste for the //work// that [I] could almost resolve to publish a corrected translation of the whole Bible. But when you see what I have done, we will talk about this, and other projects.

I am yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's  
Most affectionately  
J Priestley

Birm Oct 28 1787.

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> Baskerville's I apprehend, to which Dr. Priestley contributed the notes; as he informs Mr. Betland, May 7 1789 [Rutt].