

34 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 27 November 1787

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 70-71
PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 420-421
ADDRESS: Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

[Nov. 27. 1787]

Dear friend

I shall give orders to send along with this a copy of my Controversial pamphlet,¹ much improved, I hope, since you saw it in MS. The Preface is corrected as you seemed to wish, but a note is added, which I will cancel; by reprinting the leaf, if you disapprove of it.² It is possible that you may still think I treat with too much contempt the Undergraduate,³ but Mr Hawks⁴ thinks, as I do, that it is quite proper, as an anonymous publication, and will better precede your more serious reprehension, which he well deserves, for asserting, as he does, that he is a young man &c Let me hear from you as soon as you can, as I shall not care to publish without your approbation.

I am glad that you seem pleased with the idea of a new translation of the Bible. It does not appear to me to be a very formidable undertaking; and if you will do the New Testament, I will engage for the Old. In three years it may be done very well. And if nothing more should be done than to correct the present version, by introducing such improvements as the approved remarks of others would supply materials for, it would be well worth //the// while. Time will, no doubt, discover others; but there is no occasion to wait for them. I should prefer doing //it// in conjunction with you only, tho' I would get what assistance I could from Mr Dodson⁵ and others.

I thank you for the various reading of Phil. But it is the printed text of the Testament I always use, which is that of Stephens,⁶ small size, and I think the order is very unnatural. But such indeed very often is that [some text missing]

I am glad[?] [-?-] singular [-?-] publication of my Lectures,⁷ and I shall be glad if they should be equally agreeable to you as you proceed. I shall send you the Preface and Dedication.⁸ What I add respecting D^r Kippis⁹ I had ~~intended~~ //designed// before ~~you~~ I received your account of his intending to make use of the lectures.

I wish much to see your work, and hope it will follow mine pretty soon. But your thumb mu[st] [be] a great hindrance to you. You had better [-?-] it well, & do not use it too much. M^{rs} Lindsey will be so good as let me know how you like the pamphlet – A month more will finish the Lectures.

I am Dear Friend
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately

¹ Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Year 1787* (Birmingham, 1788).

² The note, it appears, was cancelled [Rutt].

³ George Horne (1730-1792), see 20 Mar 1787.

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

⁵ Michael Dodson (1732-1799), barrister and biblical scholar [ODNB].

⁶ ? Robert Stevens, editor of a Greek New Testament printed 1546, 1549, 1550.

⁷ 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).

⁸ The *Lectures* were dedicated to Benjamin Vaughan.

⁹ Andrew Kippis (1725-1795), see 17 Feb 1771.

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J Priestley

Birm. Nov 27. 1787.