

40 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 9 March 1789?

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 80-81
PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 108-110¹
ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London
POSTMARK: Manchester

[Manchester 9 ~~April~~ //March// 1789]

Dear friend

You will have received a letter which I wrote before I left Birmingham, presently after the date of yours. I think I then told you that I had sent the Paper for the Royal Society to Mr Watt,² and that I should bring the sheets of the Life of Wesley³ with me.

I shall not forget the engagements you mention, and I wish you make⁴ any others that you particularly wish, especially with D^r Heberden,⁵ if you should see him before I come.

Your account of D^r Price⁶ gives me much concern. He was so much affected at the condition of Mr Burgh,⁷ who was three years tortured by the stone, and ~~?~~ died of it, that he will be much distressed at the thought of having it himself, and I doubt with you, whether, if his frame would bear it he would have the courage to submit to //the operation// ~~?~~ ~~?~~ [We] must all, however, submit to the will of God, who removes ~~?~~ us when and how he pleases. All we have to do is to do all the good we can while our powers are continued to us.

I can hardly think that the ministry will be so weak as to let the Catholic bill⁸ drop, after patronizing so much as they have done. They will deserve every insult.

I came hither on thursday last, and find my son very well, and am pleased with his prospects and his partner; with whom I am to spend Wednesday next, after which I return to Birmingham, and on the monday following, if all be well, set out for London. As I shall be busy the ~~?~~ //few// days I shall be at home, you must excuse me if you should not hear from me again till you see me, which will be as usual as soon as I arrive, so as to get to Mr Vaughan's⁹ before evening.

Yesterday I preached for Mr Hawkes¹⁰ to a more crowded audience than I have ever preached to before, and as miscellaneous a one, by all accounts, as that at Buxton, and the same sermon which I shall also give you. It is evident that by disregarding, and boldly facing the prejudice, it gives way in time, and finally has no unfavourable operation.

¹ Rutt dates the letter April 1791. The reference to Price's condition (Price died on 19 April 1791), and to the Catholic Bill (passed 21 February 1791) favour Rutt's dating.

² James Watt (1736-1819), engineer and scientist [ODNB].

³ John Hampson (1760-1817), *Memoirs of the Late Rev. John Wesley, A.M. with a Review of his Life and Writings, and a History of Methodism, from it's Commencement in 1729, to the Present Time* (Sunderland, 1791).

⁴ Rutt: you would make [Rutt, I, ii, 108].

⁵ William Heberden (1710-1801), physician [ODNB].

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

⁷ James Burgh (1714-1775), tutor at an academy at Newington Green [ODNB].

⁸ The bill for the relief of Catholic dissenters had been introduced to parliament on 21 February 1791.

⁹ ? William Vaughan (1752-1850), see 27 Jul 1787.

¹⁰ William Hawkes jnr. (1759-1820), son of William Hawkes (1731-1796), minister at Moseley Street, Manchester (1789-1820) [CSICM 992].

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My son Mr Hawkes, and all your friends here, among them Mr [Toulmin]¹¹ and Mr Lloyd,¹² desire to be remembered to you
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley.

¹¹ Henry [Harry] Toulmin (1766-1823), son of Joshua Toulmin (1740-1815), dissenting minister at Monton, Lancashire (1786-1788), Chowbent Chapel, Atherton, Lancashire (1788-1792) [CSICM 1153].

¹² ? Lewis Loyd, trained originally at Manchester College as a minister, but in 1792 entered the small Manchester banking firm of John Jones & Co. [David J. Jeremy, ed., *Dictionary of Business Biography: A Biographical Dictionary of Business Leaders Active in Britain in the Period 1860-1980*, 5 vols. (London: Butterworths, 1985), vol. iii, 868-869].