

42 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 4 May 1789

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12 f. 84-85

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 21-23

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham

Birm. May 4. 1789

Dear friend

You will be glad to hear that I had a very agreeable journey, and that I found all well at Birmingham. I need not tell you how happy the recollection of our late interview makes me, and how I find myself invigorated by it in all my favourite pursuits. I hope to derive the same advantage from your visit to Birmingham and am sorry that I could not tell my wife (who looks towards it with pleasure) at what time we might expect you. I shall be obliged to you for that information when you write next.

Yesterday I preached your sermon on the being baptized for the dead,¹ and liked it much; but I should have thought the interpretation more natural, if there had been more Xⁿ martyrs at the time of writing that epistle.

The more I reflect on our scheme for translating the Scriptures, the more I am pleased with it. I think the fifth article ~~will~~ will answer your ideas, if it be expressed as follows – without any notes, except as few as possible, relating to the version, or the phraseology.

Mr Frend,² I fear, has undertaken more than he will easily execute, but we must assist him.³

I shall soon begin to do a little, and notwithstanding my other engagements, shall appropriate part of every day to this new work.

I write by this day's post to Mr Belsham⁴ but he must [[not]] be troubled on the subject of this translation in the present state of his affairs. He has, I hear taken the pains to collect all the interpretations of the passages of scripture usually alleged in the Arian and Socinian controversy, antient and modern, to assist him in forming his own judgment. It is said that, joined to his own remarks, it would make a very valuable publication.⁵

If you could send me a few more copies of Mr Frend's Addresses,⁶ I could dispose of them to advantage. I have an active distributor at Manchester and unitarianism gains ground [there] notwithstanding the opposition of D^r Barnes.⁷

If you see Mr Johnson soon,⁸ I wish you would tell him that if he has not sent the Rule //Rule//, he may perhaps get it put into the package that is coming for me from Mr Parker.⁹

¹ 1 Cor. xv. 29 [Rutt].

² William Frend (1757-1841), see 29 Jun 1788.

³ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁴ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

⁵ This collection contributed to the *Inquiry*, in 1811 [Rutt].

⁶ William Frend, *An Address to the Inhabitants of Cambridge and its Neighbourhood, exhorting them to turn from the False Worship of Three Persons, to the Worship of the One True God* (St. Ives, 1788) (republished in a second edition by Johnson as *An Address to the Members of the Church of England, and to Protestant Trinitarians in General* (London, 1788)); *Second Address* (London, 1789).

⁷ Thomas Barnes (1747-1810), see 3 Apr 1789.

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Hoping to hear from you soon, I am with best respects from my wife, and son,
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately

J Priestley

Give my respects to M^{rs} Rayner,¹⁰ M^r & M^{rs} Lee,¹¹ D^r Blackburne,¹² and other
friends in general.

⁸ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

⁹ William Parker (fl. 1776-1817), see 5 Jul 1786.

¹⁰ Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

¹¹ John Lee (1733-1793), see Mar 1770, and Mary Lee (1734-1812).

¹² William Blackburne, son of Francis Blackburne (1705-1787), listed as a member of the Unitarian Society for promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue, 1791. See *Unitarian Society* (London, 1791?).