

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 96

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[Sep 7. 1789]

Dear friend

You have made [[me]] very easy and happy by your approbation of my treatment of D<sup>r</sup> Horsley.<sup>1</sup> Be assured, however, that it will be much improved before it go to the press. Since I wrote last I have added some letters to Mr Hawkins,<sup>2</sup> which I think will close my pamphlet. I was in hopes to have sent you the whole, but there remains one letter to be transcribed on the doctrine of the Trinity, tho much will not remain to be said after what Mr Clarke has addressed to him.<sup>3</sup> There is something very particular in his case with respect to me. His patron is Bp North,<sup>4</sup> and he stands a good chance for great preferment. He courted my acquaintance almost as much as Mr Badcock,<sup>5</sup> and told me he had subscribed as articles of peace, and if it had been to do again, he believed he should not do it. When I was writing my *History of Early Opinions*<sup>6</sup> he procured me books from the Cathedral Library at Worcester.

Mr Galton<sup>7</sup> has Horsley's edition of Newton,<sup>8</sup> but I do not know [[how]] to get his Latin Prospectus,<sup>9</sup> except Mr Cappe<sup>10</sup> have it, which I think he said he had.

I propose on my journey to write my Address to the Bishops,<sup>11</sup> tho I shall not publish it till the year following; and at my return I shall have nothing to do but sit down to translating.

I am glad to see the Commentaries,<sup>12</sup> and shall take it along with me.

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>2</sup> John Hawkins, author of *An Expostulatory Address to the Reverend Doctor Priestley; containing an Apology for those who conscientiously subscribe to the Articles of the Church of England* (Worcester, 1788). See Priestley's *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>3</sup> George Clark, *A Defence of the Unity of God, in Four Letters to the Reverend Mr. Harper. In reply to his Address to Dr. Disney, for resigning the Rectory of Panton, and Vicarage of Swinderly, in Lincolnshire; and for quitting the Established Church: including, Remarks upon Mr. Romaine's Sermon on the Self-Existence of Jesus Christ. Together with Remarks on the Rev. Mr. Hawkins's Letter to Dr. Priestley; and upon a Publication, entitled Horae Solitariae: with General Observations, on the Common Insubstantial Mode, of defending the Doctrine of the Trinity* (London, 1789).

<sup>4</sup> Brownlow North (1741-1820), bishop of Winchester [ODNB].

<sup>5</sup> Samuel Badcock (1747-1788), theologian and writer on literature. Badcock published a harshly critical review of Priestley's *History of the Corruptions of Christianity* in the *Monthly Review* for June 1783. This, and an article by him in the following year on Priestley's *Letters to Dr Horsley*, produced two answers from Priestley and pamphlets from James Edward Hamilton and Edward Harwood. Badcock then replied in *A Letter to Doctor Priestley: Occasioned by His Late Pamphlet* [W. P. Courtney, 'Badcock, Samuel (1747-1788)', rev. Antonia Forster, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, online edn.].

<sup>6</sup> Priestley, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ, compiled from Original Writers; proving that the Christian Church was at First Unitarian*, 4 vols. (Birmingham, 1786).

<sup>7</sup> Samuel Galton (1720-1799).

<sup>8</sup> Samuel Horsley, *Isaaci Newtoni Opera quae exstant Omnia*, 5 vols. (London, 1779-1785).

<sup>9</sup> unidentified.

<sup>10</sup> Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770.

<sup>11</sup> See 31 Aug 1789.

<sup>12</sup> *Commentaries and Essays, published by the Society for promoting the Knowledge of the Scriptures*, 2 vols. (London, 1784-1796).

48 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 7 September 1789

I shall send you some copies of the History of Early Opinions that you need not trouble Mr Johnson<sup>13</sup> about them.

We set out tomorrow morning, and I shall write when I get to Castle head. Direct to that place near Lancaster.

With all my best respects  
yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's  
most affectionately  
J Priestley

Birm. Sep<sup>br</sup> 7. 1789.

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<sup>13</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.