

49 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 21 September 1789

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 97-98

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

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Castle head Sep^{br} 21. 1789

Dear friend

I should have answered your former letter but that I was in daily expectation of the second, which came yesterday. I am concerned at your frequent indispositions, but as you are subject to feverish complaints, I hope you will be able both to guard against them, and manage yourself better in them. I am glad to hear you are so well recovered from this last attack. I keep in very good health, and am the better for the journey and the exercise I have here. We leave this place on thursday, and propose to spend sunday //next// at Manchester, in our way home; so that your next should be directed to Birmingham, where I hope to arrive in the middle of the next week.

I am much pleased that you do not dislike the Letter to D^r Knowles and Mr Hawkins.¹ The other letter to the latter, which I had not time to get transcribed, & which relates to the doctrine of the trinity, I am pretty sure will not displease you.

Having sufficient leisure in this place, I have written my Address to the bishops,² and at my return shall have it transcribed, and sent to you along with the third letter to Mr Hawkins³ and the altered Dedication to Mr Shore,⁴ which I have executed according to your obliging hint.

Having dispatched these little things, I shall sit down to the translation, which I have at heart more than any thing I ever yet undertook. If I was not sufficiently interested before, this letter to the Bishop of Norwich⁵ (for which I thank you) would have done it. His shameful conduct is well exposed, tho the letter is in some places rather obscure, as irony is apt to be. If he be capable of feeling, he must be miserable, as he deserves to be. I shall not forget this business in my Address to their Lordships. But what I have yet done is only ~~2~~ a rough outline; such, however, as I wish to put into your hands before I proceed to finish it. For I wish to execute this piece with the greatest care, as I [[think]] it will close the controversy, and will, I hope, draw some attention.

I am sorry for the difference between Mr Palmer⁶ and Mr Robson,⁷ tho not for the consequences of it, his leaving Newcastle. I think you will do well to acquaint him with our scheme of the translation, a[nd] ask his assistance. But unless a person be station[ary]

¹ See Priestley's *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

² See 31 Aug 1789.

³ John Hawkins, see 7 Sept 1789.

⁴ Samuel Shore (1738-1828), see 26 Aug 1787. The dedication was for Priestley's *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire*, 2 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

⁵ Robert Edward Garnham (1753-1802), *A Letter to the Right Rev. Lewis, by Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of Norwich, requesting his Lordship to name the Prelate, to whom he referred as "contending strenuously for the General Excellence of our Present Authorized Translation of the Bible"* (London, 1789).

⁶ Thomas Fyshe Palmer (1747-1802), see 14 Jul 1787.

⁷ William Robson, see 20 Mar 1787.

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and have access to books, he cannot do much. He may, however, assist by his remarks on particular passages. I hope we shall do without many more hands than are now engaged. We had better take another year than embarrass ourselves with intractable people.

I am concerned ~~for~~ at the account you give me of the affairs of France. The courtiers //here// will triumph in it but I hope the best, as the people in general are in favour of liberty, and the king cannot, I should imagine, find money⁸ to carry on a war – My daughter⁹ and Mr Finch¹⁰ desire their kind remembrances to you & M^{rs} Lindsey

Yours & her's most affectionately J.P.

⁸ Rutt: many [Rutt, I, ii, 32].

⁹ Sarah Priestley (1763-1803), see 5 July 1786.

¹⁰ William Finch, see 11 Jun 1787.