

50 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 12 October 1789

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 99-100

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 35-36

ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

ENDORSEMENT: Oct. 12. 1789

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Dear friend

To give you a better idea of M<sup>r</sup> Wilberforce's<sup>1</sup> peculiar, and I may add extraordinary reasons for refusing us his vote for the abolition of the Test Act,<sup>2</sup> I send you Mr Simpson's Letter,<sup>3</sup> which gives an account of it. Please to return it with the last letter to Mr Hawkins<sup>4</sup> which I send now. As to Address to the Bp's,<sup>5</sup> it will take some time to have it transcribed, and I find I cannot have my amanuensis when I would. But we shall make a beginning with it tomorrow, and may get thro it in the course of a fortnight or perhaps less, and the business is not urgent.<sup>6</sup>

I wish you would apply for me to D<sup>r</sup> Price<sup>7</sup> or Mr Morgan<sup>8</sup> for such an opinion of Bp Horsley's edition of Newton,<sup>9</sup> as I may safely quote, and when M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey writes to M<sup>rs</sup> Cappe,<sup>10</sup> I wish she would ask for the Prospectus,<sup>11</sup> which M<sup>r</sup> Cappe<sup>12</sup> once told me he either had, or could procure. I think to print in December, so as to publish in January. Mr Dodson<sup>13</sup> thinks that, as I cannot have any occasion to write any more Defences my Address to the Bps may soon follow this. But it will be better to defer it at least one year. The idea of a rod hanging over them may do some good. They will see that we are not intimidated.<sup>14</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Marsom<sup>15</sup> will be able to give you some account of the Unitarian Baptists at York; for they sent one of their number to confer with him and his small society at Mitcham,<sup>16</sup> as those at Manchester told me, but they said that Mr Marsom believed the preexistence of X, with which they were much dissatisfied. This is the more extraordinary, as M<sup>r</sup> Marsom is a materialist so that, as I remember Mr Clark<sup>17</sup> told me,

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<sup>1</sup> William Wilberforce (1759-1833), politician, philanthropist, and slavery abolitionist [ODNB].

<sup>2</sup> In reply to an application from Dissenting ministers in Yorkshire [Rutt].

<sup>3</sup> ? John Simpson (1746-1812), Presbyterian minister and religious writer [ODNB] [Rutt, I, i, 215].

<sup>4</sup> John Hawkins, see 7 Sept 1789.

<sup>5</sup> See 31 Aug 1789.

<sup>6</sup> The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>7</sup> Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

<sup>8</sup> George Cadogan Morgan (1754-1798), dissenting minister and scientist, tutor at New College Hackney [ODNB].

<sup>9</sup> Samuel Horsley, *Isaaci Newtoni Opera quæ exstant Omnia*, 5 vols. (London, 1779-1785).

<sup>10</sup> Catharine Cappe (1744-1821), wife of Newcome Cappe (1733-1800) [ODNB].

<sup>11</sup> unidentified.

<sup>12</sup> Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770.

<sup>13</sup> Michael Dodson (1732-1799), see 27 Nov 1787.

<sup>14</sup> This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>15</sup> ? John Marsom, a bookseller in Holborn and a dissenting minister [David Rivers, *Literary Memoirs of Living Authors of Great Britain, arranged according to an Alphabetical Catalogue and including a List of their Works* (London, 1798), 25].

<sup>16</sup> In the London borough of Merton.

<sup>17</sup> ? George Clark, author of *A Defence of the Unity of God, in Four Letters to the Reverend Mr. Harper* (London, 1789), see 7 Sept 1789.

he ~~is~~ //held// that X preexisted as a complete man. I told him it was an opinion that no man could hold long.<sup>18</sup>

I send you the minutes of our first meeting at Birm. which was conducted with perfect harmony. We meet again on Wednesday, M<sup>r</sup> Russell<sup>19</sup> having copies to deliver to the several congregations, seven in all, then to have them printed.<sup>20</sup>

I wish you would send me before Sunday next a dozen of Mr Toulmin, jun<sup>r</sup> Address to the ~~is~~ Unitarians attending trinitarian worship,<sup>21</sup> and also a dozen copies of my Address to Master of families.<sup>22</sup>

I thank you for your opinion of the things I sent in my last, and shall confor[m] to your advice in every thing.

Mr Wilkinson<sup>23</sup> brought a good account of my son.<sup>24</sup> The two brothers are now together to make, if possible, some settlement, in order to act together. I doubt the issue. Joseph<sup>25</sup> is going to Castle head to spend the winter. He has accounts &c to settle there. M<sup>rs</sup> P continues pretty well, and joins me in best respects to you both; yours most affectionately

J Priestley

P.S. Can you purchase for me the Westminster Magazine for May 1774. It contains a copy of Verses on me by Mr Badcock,<sup>26</sup> which I shall have occasion to quote.

<sup>18</sup> The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>19</sup> William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

<sup>20</sup> See Committee of the Seven Congregations of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters, in Birmingham, *Extracts from Books, and other Small Pieces; in favour of Religious Liberty, and the Rights of Dissenters. Number I. Printed by Order of the Committee of the Seven Congregations of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters, in Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1789); Committee of the Seven Congregations of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters, in Birmingham, *At a Numerous Meeting of Deputies from the Seven Congregations of the Three Denominations of Dissenters, in Birmingham, held at the Hotel, in Birmingham, on Wednesday the Fourteenth Day of October, 1789* (Birmingham, 1789).

<sup>21</sup> Joshua Toulmin, *A Free and Serious Address to the Christian Laity, especially such as embracing Unitarian Sentiments conform to Trinitarian Worship. To which is prefixed an Introduction; wherein the Worship of the Holy Scriptures is contrasted with the Church of England, and of Dissenters* (London, 1781).

<sup>22</sup> Priestley, *A Serious Address to Masters of Families, with Forms of Family-Prayer* (London, 1769). Two further editions were published in 1770 and 1794. Rutt's text ends here.

<sup>23</sup> John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>24</sup> William Priestley (b. 1771), see 22 July 1789.

<sup>25</sup> Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), Priestley's eldest son.

<sup>26</sup> Samuel Badcock (1747-1788), see 7 Sept 1789.