

52 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 29 October 1789

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS.12.12, f. 103-104

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

ENDORSEMENT: Oct^r. 29. 1789

Birm. Oct. 29 1789

Dear friend

I am sorry to have given you so much uneasiness about my Preface¹ and Address to the Bps.² ~~but~~ But it was really, in a great measure, owing to yourself, in desiring that I would not give Horsley the title of my Lord &c. To make every thing else of a piece with this appeared to be necessary; but I never liked it myself, and I always, on reflection, lower the tone of all my compositions of this kind. Mr Hawkes³ was offended with many things that you particularly approved in the Letters; but he is meekness itself. I know he disliked my Letter to Mr Pitt,⁴ but I told him I was ~~not~~ in the habit of acquiescing in your better judgment in these things. I am satisfied, however, it will be best to drop the scheme of Letters to the Bp altogether; and you will see in the Preface, now returned, that I have done so.⁵

I thank you for Mr Garnham's Letter,⁶ and still hope that he will undertake Ecclesiastes, as he seems to have no great objection to it. Give my compliments to him again, and request it of him. I perceive that he was the author of the Letter to the Bp of Norwich.⁷ I thank you for sending me the Letter to Bp Horsley.⁸ It is clever, but it does not enter sufficiently into the argument. I want the single Sermons of the Bp except the last and that on the Incarnation.⁹ I shall be obliged to you if you will apply to his bookseller, Robson.¹⁰ Johnson¹¹ will never collect them for me. I also wish you would get for me, as opportunity may present

La Croze's Hist du X^{ty} dans les Indes¹²
& Gavin's Master Key to Popery 4 Vols¹³

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

² See 31 Aug 1789.

³ William Hawkes (1731-1796), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁴ Priestley, *A Letter to the Right Honourable William Pitt, First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Subjects of Toleration and Church Establishments; occasioned by his Speech against the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts; on Wednesday the 28th of March, 1787* (London, 1787).

⁵ See Priestley's *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (1790), xiii. This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁶ Robert Edward Garnham (1753-1802), see 21 Sept 1789.

⁷ Robert Edward Garnham, *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). See 21 Sept 1789.

⁸ ? Robert Edward Petre, *A Letter from the Right Honourable Lord Petre, to the Right Reverend Doctor Horsley, Bishop of St. David's* (London, 1790).

⁹ Samuel Horsley, *On the Incarnation. A Sermon, Preached in the Parish Church of St. Mary Newington, in Surrey, Dec. 25, 1785* (London: James Robson, 1786).

¹⁰ James Robson (1733-1806), printer and bookseller [ODNB].

¹¹ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

¹² Maturin Veyssi re de La Croze (1661-1739), *Histoire du Christianisme des Indes* (La Haye, 1724).

I much admire the former, which I have of yours. I see but few Catalogues here, and never very early.

I am much obliged to ~~Mr H~~ you and Mr Heywood¹⁴ for your remarks on my Dedication to the Prince.¹⁵ I have made the alterations you advised, and shall soon transcribe it. That to Mr Shore¹⁶ I wish you would ~~pre~~ shew him pretty soon. It requires no letter, but from yourself along with it. It will be wanted ~~?~~ in less than a month.

I approve of the cancel[?] in the letter to Mr Hughes.¹⁷ But he is a person who has gone thro a regular course of Study for the ministry; and therefore there is not all the impropriety in the present that you suppose.¹⁸

Is not the conduct of the Bp of S. David's¹⁹ liab[le to] censure, as a member of the upper house inte[r]fering in the election of the lower.²⁰ What does Mr Heywood say of it in this respect?

Mr Russell²¹ is from home. When he returns I will deliver your message. I was more alarmed for my wife the last week than I had ever been. She had many consumptive symptoms, and could not leave her room many days. But I thank God they are gone, and I hope she will recover soon. A Burgundy pitch plaster on her back seems to have been of the most use in relieving her cough. She has no fever now.

I have got the Westminster Magazine. If you could call on Mr Nicholls,²² I wish you would hasten the copies of my last Paper²³ for the Philosophical Transactions. Keep half²⁴ a dozen, and send me the rest.

My wife desires her kindest remembrances to you both

Yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's

most affectionately

J Priestley

¹³ Antonio Gavin (fl. 1716-1726), *A Master-Key to Popery* (Dublin, 1724; London, 1725). The work went through several editions between 1724 and 1729, mostly reprints by London booksellers. The previous three sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁴ Samuel Heywood (1753-1828), see 21 Oct 1789.

¹⁵ George Prince of Wales, to whom Priestley dedicated his *Experiments and Observations on Different Kinds of Air, and other Branches of Natural Philosophy, connected with the Subject*, 3 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

¹⁶ Samuel Shore (1738-1828), see 26 Aug 1787. Priestley dedicated his *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire* (1790) to Shore.

¹⁷ ? Revd Rice Hughes, of Aldenham, Herts., chaplain to Earl Poulett.

¹⁸ The previous two paragraphs are omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁹ Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

²⁰ See Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790), 64. Horsley had sent a circular letter to the clergy of his diocese advising them not to vote for John George Phillips, M.P. for Carmarthen, who had voted for going into a committee to consider of the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts in the Commons on the 8 May 1789.

²¹ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

²² John Nichols (1745-1826), see 14 Jul 1787. Nichols and W. Bowyer were publishers of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*.

²³ Priestley, 'Experiments on the Transmission of the Vapour of Acids through an Hot Earthen Tube, and Further Observations relating to Phlogiston', *Phil. Trans.*, LXX (1789).

²⁴ Rutt: self [Rutt I, ii, 40].