

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 113-114

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 46-47

Birm. Nov<sup>br</sup>. 29. 1789

Dear friend

I am glad that you liked my Sermon,<sup>1</sup> in which I wished to say nothing violent, such as some people would expect from me. In my animadversions on the Letters to the Dissenters at Devizes,<sup>2</sup> I shall say some stronger things. But in this my name will not appear. D<sup>r</sup> Aikin's piece and mine will probably make our second number.

The printer has one sheet more to print of my Letters to Bp Horsley,<sup>3</sup> and then he will go upon Mr H-d's pamphlet,<sup>4</sup> and he will dispatch it, if all be well, in about ten days. After this, he will proceed with the remainder of my Defences.<sup>5</sup> In the mean time, I will send you and Mr Belsham<sup>6</sup> copies of the Letters to Horsley.<sup>7</sup> A good //deal// is added since you saw them, but as every thing is in the same spirit, I hope you will not disapprove them. I have made the largest<sup>8</sup> additions to the Letters to Mr Hawkins,<sup>9</sup> and those I am pretty confident you will not dislike.

Mr Morgan<sup>10</sup> has an idea of something much more than I want, which was nothing more than an opinion in one or two sentences, such as he<sup>11</sup> could justify, if it should be necessary. However, that part is now printed, and I have //said// so little that I fancy I am in no danger of having said too much.

I am obliged to Mr Lofft<sup>12</sup> for his good opinion but there is [[no]] hero<sup>13</sup> among us besides yourself. We only ~~talk~~ talk and write, which is a very easy business, compared with what you have done. Does he intend to say any thing more to D<sup>r</sup> Knowles<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Priestley, *The Conduct to be observed by Dissenters in order to procure the Repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, recommended in a Sermon, preached before the Congregations of the Old and New Meetings, at Birmingham, November 5, 1789* (Birmingham, 1789).

<sup>2</sup> Priestley, *Remarks on Two Letters, addressed to the Delegates of the Several Congregations of Protestant Dissenters, who met at Devizes, September 14, 1789*, printed with Aikin's *The Spirit of the Constitution and that of the Church of England, compared* (London, 1790).

<sup>3</sup> Printed with the *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Heywood, *The Right of Protestant Dissenters to a Compleat Toleration asserted; containing an Historical Account of the Test Laws, and showing the Injustice, Inexpediency, and Folly of the Sacramental Test, as now imposed, with respect to Protestant Dissenters, with an Answer to the Objection to the Act of Union with Scotland* (London, 1789), second edn.

<sup>5</sup> Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790). The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

<sup>7</sup> Samuel Horsley (1733-1808), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>8</sup> Rutt: longest [Rutt, I, ii, 46].

<sup>9</sup> John Hawkins, see 7 Sept 1789. Also printed with the *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (1790).

<sup>10</sup> George Cadogan Morgan (1754-1798), see 12 Oct 1789.

<sup>11</sup> Rutt: I [Rutt, I, ii, 46].

<sup>12</sup> Capel Lofft (1751-1824), see 21 Oct 1789.

<sup>13</sup> Rutt: no hero [Rutt, I, ii, 46].

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Knowles (1723-1802), see 31 Aug 1789.

In less than a month I hope to send you the remainder of my History,<sup>15</sup> the Index to which I have now in hand. My Philosophical Work will, I hope, be finished before my usual time of ~~visiting~~ visiting the metropolis.

You said you would write to Mr Cappe<sup>16</sup> about our translation of the Scriptures. If you did what answer did he give. Will he do anything. As I believe he is a pretty good Hebrician, Perhaps he would undertake some part of the O.T. But if we wait another year, we are enow. I have made a beginning, on the Psalms. There is rather more to do than I expected, but this will only make me labour the more at it.

Please to tell Mr Johnson<sup>17</sup> that I have drawn upon //him// for three guineas payable to the order of J. Howard,<sup>18</sup> at ten days, from this date.<sup>19</sup>

Mr Bretland<sup>20</sup> says that Mr ~~Heywood~~ Reynell<sup>21</sup> at Hackney College has papers of his //great// uncle's that may be of use in our translation. If you see Mr Belsham tell him I will write to him when I send him the Letters to Bp Horsley, towards the end of this week.

There is an awkward erratum in my Sermon<sup>22</sup> advocates for adversaries. This will be noticed in the copies that are not yet sent out.

I long much to see D<sup>r</sup> Price's Sermon.<sup>23</sup> I hear so much of it from all quarters. I hope it will come soon.

I rejoice that the cause of liberty seems to go on so well in Brabant & Flanders. I hope the emperor<sup>24</sup> will let them alone, and pursue his advantage ag<sup>t</sup> the Turks in which I rejoice also.

My wife is yet very well. The child is very of the small pox, but in a very promising way.

Yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey[[ 's]]  
most affectionately  
J Priestley

<sup>15</sup> Priestley, *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire*, 2 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>16</sup> Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770.

<sup>17</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

<sup>18</sup> unidentified.

<sup>19</sup> This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>20</sup> ? Joseph Bretland (1742-1819), minister at the Mint Meeting-House at Exeter. See 14 May 1789.

<sup>21</sup> ? Thomas Reynell, minister at Crediton, Devon.

<sup>22</sup> Priestley, *The Conduct to be observed by Dissenters in order to procure the Repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, recommended in a Sermon, preached before the Congregations of the Old and New Meetings, at Birmingham, November 5, 1789* (1789). See p. 11: 'Nothing, therefore, is requisite in our case, but to shew that our advocates are chargeable with *intolerance* in their treatment of us, and that they really do *persecute* us'. The error was corrected in the second edition.

<sup>23</sup> Richard Price, *A Discourse on the Love of our Country, delivered on Nov. 4, 1789, at the Meeting-House in the Old Jewry, to the Society for commemorating the Revolution in Great Britain* (London, 1789).

<sup>24</sup> Joseph II (Joseph Benedict August Johannes Anton Michel Adam) (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor from 1765 to 1790 and ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780 to 1790. In 1788 Joseph II had joined the Russians in the war against Turkey.