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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

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Birm. Dec^{br}. 10 1789

Dear friend

I am much revived by your letter. The thing that strikes me least ~~to~~ //is// the ~~to~~ recurrence of the same words too soon. If you will mark some of the most striking //faults// of this kind, or any other, I will cancel a few leaves for the purpose of correcting them. One that you have printed out I am determined upon. The next week I hope to send you the remainder of the work, and it //may// remain a month before publication.¹

I am glad that you do not dislike the additions to the letters to Bp Horsley.² Having finished Mr H-d's³ pamphlet, we are now proceeding with the remainder of the Defences,⁴ and I hope to finish in a fortnight, so as to publish the first of January.⁵ I have no doubt of you approving the additions to the Letters to Mr Hawkins.⁶

If you see Mr Belsham,⁷ I wish you would desire him not to shew my History⁸ to any body, till the cancelled leaves be reprinted, except D^r Price⁹ should ask for it.

Last night I received, and read, his Sermon.¹⁰ It is, indeed, most excellent. I was moved even to tears towards the conclusion. His ~~need~~ friends need be under no apprehension. The court will be galled, but they will never hurt him. I hope it will be reprinted in a cheap form, to distribute thro the country. If you see him, do mention this to him. It may have as great an effect as his Tract on Civil Liberty.¹¹ Now is the time to speak out, without any fear, both on civil and religious subjects, while the ~~to~~ advocates for tyranny are overawed.¹² As to the [-?-] on the throne he will be at his ~~to~~ wit's ends, but as quiet as a child, never fear.

We were much alarmed on friday. They sent a chaise for my wife to Heath, the child being dangerously ill, the disorder in to head, after having, to all appearance,

¹ Excepting the first sentence, this paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

² Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

³ 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.

⁴ Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

⁵ This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁶ John Hawkins, see 7 Sept 1789.

⁷ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

⁸ Priestley, *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire*, 2 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

⁹ Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ Richard Price, *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, the Principles of Government, and the Justice and Policy of the War with America* (London, 1776). ESTC lists 24 editions between 1776 and 1778.

¹² Rutt's edition breaks off here.

recovered very well from the small pox. A letter having miscarried, I heard nothing till I sent on purpose, and the servant is just now returned, bringing an account that the child is perfectly [recovered], and my wife is to be at home the [text missing], at which I rejoice not a little. For I do not much relish being alone.

Mr Frend's piece on baptism¹³ is a poor business indeed, and does not at all affect your ideas, or mine.¹⁴

As you think my shoulders pretty broad, and used to bear a good deal, you load me with every thing. As to mentioning the translations, I dare say I have no more to charge myself with than others. I have only ~~to~~ mentioned to a few whom, with your consent, I wished to engage, except a few particular friends, chiefly here, who promised not to speak of it again, and I do not think that they have. However I told you it would be impossible to keep it a secret, and I see no inconvenience at all, but an advantage, in all that you say has transpired about it. You see the thing in a different light, but that cannot be helped. When I proposed a year, I did not really expect that it would be dispatched so soon. Another year will do very well.

¹³ unidentified.

¹⁴ Rutt's edition resumes here.