

68 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 29 March 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 138-139  
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[Mar 29. 1790]

Of the knowledge of  
Jesus Christ,  
and the Origin of the  
Great Errors concerning him;  
with a list of the  
~~false readings of the scriptures //and mistranslations//~~  
~~and~~  
~~mistranslations~~  
False readings of the Scriptures, and the  
Mistranslations of the English Bible, which  
contribute to support these errors.  
being  
A Second Address to the Students of Oxford and  
Cambridge  
By T. L &c  
Surely I ought to know &c<sup>1</sup>

Birm. 29 March 1790

Dear friend

The above is the last idea that I can give of the arrangement of your title page.<sup>2</sup> But the judgment is much assisted by seeing the execution of it, and therefore, let your printer, after seeing, and trying the above, decide for you, or rather, you for yourself. Many would detail the lower part, and not make a passage after.

I rejoice greatly that your work is in so great forwardness, as I have no doubt of its doing much good, as every thing of yours has.

You take it for granted that D<sup>r</sup> Withers<sup>3</sup> is the author of Theodosius.<sup>4</sup> But would it not be better to leave a line at Bucklands,<sup>5</sup> or his successor, according to the direction in the book? It is eagerly recommended by the clergy here, who now do every thing they possibly can to injure me. Mr Burn<sup>6</sup> seriously talks (and I since hear it is a measure of the clergy in general) to prosecute me in the Spiritual Court, but on what ground they will proceed I cannot imagine. I think they will be better advised. Mr Madan has published

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<sup>1</sup> 'Surely I ought to know the God whom I worship, whether he be one, pure and simple being; or whether Thou art a threefold deity, consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit', Dr. Watts's Solemn Address to the Deity.

<sup>2</sup> For Lindsey's *A Second Address to the Students of Oxford and Cambridge* (London, 1790).

<sup>3</sup> Philip Withers (d. 1790).

<sup>4</sup> Philip Withers, *Theodosius: or a Solemn Admonition to Protestant Dissenters, on the Proposed Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts* (London: J. Buckland, 1790).

<sup>5</sup> James Buckland (1710?-1790), bookseller at 57 Paternoster Row [BBTI]. See *Theodosius*, 13 n.

<sup>6</sup> Edward Burn (1762-1837), see 11 Mar 1790.

the most peevish and malignant Letter to me<sup>7</sup> that you can conceive. I shall notice it in my Familiar Letters,<sup>8</sup> another N<sup>o</sup> of which I propose to publish before I leave Birmingham. The controversy excites universal attention. The Letters to Mr Burn<sup>9</sup> are all gone, and the Familiar Letters very nearly. We printed 500 of each, but now reprint them. I shall strike while the iron is hot.

This day I attend the funeral of M<sup>rs</sup> Blyth.<sup>10</sup> He<sup>11</sup> is much broken, and says he shall resign. [In] deed, I much question whether he will ever preach again, so that a colleague must be had for me. At present a supply will be had of our Mr Kingsbury<sup>12</sup> now residing in Warwick, whose conduct has been very impudent, and singular. I think I have told you the story. He is very clever, and has good dispositions. By all accounts that I can get of Mr Watson of Chichester,<sup>13</sup> he is the person we should first apply to. But more of this when I come. Yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's

most affectionately

J Priestley

P.S. I shall take care of the £. 5. to Mr Russell<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Spencer Madan, *A Letter to Doctor Priestley, in consequence of His "Familiar Letters addressed to the Inhabitants of the Town of Birmingham, &c."* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>8</sup> *Familiar Letters, addressed to the Inhabitants of Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>9</sup> Priestley, *Letters to the Rev. Edward Burn, of St. Mary's Chapel, Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>10</sup> Wife of Samuel Blyth, joint minister at the New Meeting House, Birmingham.

<sup>11</sup> Samuel Blyth (1718/19-1796), joint minister at the New Meeting House, Birmingham (1747-1791) [CSICM 1591] [Rutt, I, i, 339].

<sup>12</sup> Benjamin Kingsbury (b. 1765?), minister at High Street, Warwick (1786-1789) and Evesham (1790-91) [CSICM 395].

<sup>13</sup> Thomas Watson, minister at Baffins Lane Meeting, Chichester, 1788-1803 [CSICM 537].

<sup>14</sup> William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.