

71 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 13 May 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 144- 145

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 64-65

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

ENDORSEMENT: May. 13. 1790

Birm. May 13. 1790

Dear friend

I wish you would give my compliments to Mr Johnson,¹ and tell him I shall be obliged to him for a copy of my Letters to a Philosophical Unbeliever² for Mr Fox,³ and of my two charts⁴ for Mr Jones,⁵ a clergyman who assists Mr Estlin⁶ in his school at Bristol. They may be sent directed to Mr Estlin.

As Mr Fox did not say he should be at liberty to read any thing of this kind till he should go into the country, I was in no haste to send them. The books I promised were the Letters, and History of Early Opinions,⁷ which I shall be obliged to you if you will take care to send.

I rejoice exceedingly at the account of the good state of your own health, and hope that, with care, it will continue to improve; and I think you may now consult your ease, and that, without engaging in any more laborious publications, will enable you to do more real good ~~than~~ than any undertaking that might be attended with risque to your health; as composition certainly would be. There is a time for all things. You have fought a good fight, and now the easier task of occasional conversation, in visiting, and being visited, will tend greatly to confirm the good impressions that have been made by your more strenuous exertions. I also look forward to the same natural period of labour, and expect to enjoy that, at your term of life as well, as I now do my greater activity. Your present duty is to consult your health, and //to// live as long, and as comfortably, as you can; for that alone will be attended with great utility to the common cause. To revise some of your Sermons will be an easy task, and a very useful one.

I have received a Letter from D^r Bancroft⁸ which my son is now copying, and which I wish you would take to Mr Nicholls⁹ for the Gentleman's Magazine. If you think proper, read it first to D^r Heberden.¹⁰

There are two books that I wish much to have, and which I shall be much obliged to you if you will endeavour to ~~to~~ procure for me 1. The book of Consecration and

¹ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

² Priestley, *Letters to a Philosophical Unbeliever. Part I* (Bath, 1780), *Part II* (Birmingham, 1787).

³ Charles James Fox (1749-1806), see 14 May 1789.

⁴ Priestley's *A New Chart of History* (London, 1769) and *A Chart of Biography* (Warrington, 1764). Many editions of both were published between 1765 and 1800.

⁵ unidentified.

⁶ John Prior Estlin (1747-1817), see 14 Jul 1787.

⁷ Priestley, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ, compiled from Original Writers; proving that the Christian Church was at First Unitarian*, 4 vols. (Birmingham, 1786).

⁸ Edward Bancroft (1744-1821), chemist and spy [ODNB] see *Gent. Mag.*, LX (1790), 384-386.

⁹ John Nichols (1745-1826), see 14 Jul 1787.

¹⁰ William Heberden (1710-1819), see 18 Nov 1789.

71 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 13 May 1790

adorning priests and deacons.¹¹ 2. The Bishop of Llandaff's tract,¹² containing his Proposal for equalizing church livings. If you have them you could perhaps spare them for the present.

Mr Courtenay¹³ has sent one of his Letters to me.¹⁴ It is a piece of excellent humour, and will do good.

I am just returned from Heath, where I left all well, and grateful for your kind remembrances of them[.] My wife is pretty well, but there is still much room for amendment. She & Joseph¹⁵ desire their best respects.

Yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley

P.S. Miss Percivals¹⁶ and other company are in the ~~2~~ //house//[.] Tomorrow they go to see Oxford, and then return.

My daughter wishes much to have the Print in which we are represented as going to hell &c. I shall be obliged to you to buy it and put it to my account. She has the former in which we are in the same pulpit.¹⁷

¹¹ ? Francis Mason, *Of the Consecration of the Bishops in the Church of England: with their Succession, Jurisdiction, and Other Things incident to their Calling: as also of the Ordination of Priests and Deacons. Five Bookes* (London, 1613).

¹² Richard Watson, *A Letter to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, by Richard, Lord Bishop of Landaff* (London, 1783).

¹³ John Courtenay (1738-1816).

¹⁴ John Courtenay, *Philosophical Reflections on the Late Revolution in France, and the Conduct of the Dissenters in England; in a Letter to the Rev. Dr. Priestley* (London, 1790).

¹⁵ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

¹⁶ ? Daughters of Thomas Percival (1740-1804), physician and prominent Manchester dissenter [ODNB].

¹⁷ On the subject of eighteenth-century prints of Priestley see Martin Fitzpatrick, 'Priestley Caricatured', in A. Truman Schwartz and J. G. McEvoy, eds., *Motion Towards Perfection: The Achievements of Joseph Priestley* (Boston, 1990), 161-218.