

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 154
PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 70-71

[Birmingham June 24 1790]

Dear friend

You will see by the inclosed that I must not publish the Sermon¹ till I hear from the family. I beg therefore that you would take back those I sent you, or take the trouble to deliver the alterations I may have occasion to make in it.²

It is evident that Mr Robinson,³ tho an unitarian, did not wish to incur the odium of it with all his old friends.

I want to know how Mr Dodson⁴ goes on with his translation of the Prophets. I stick close to my part, and hope to have finished all that is essential before you come, at the end of the next month, or the middle of it. I do a certain quantity per day. We must make a point of dispatching the whole this year. I shall see Mr Belsham⁵ and talk to him about his part. I shall also write to Mr Friend,⁶ and give him any help that he may want. My method is to paste paper to the margin of a 4^{to} Bible, and make the alterations there. This I think better, on every account, than to write the whole, and especially much easier to those who examin[e] it. Can you borrow for ~~me~~[?] Houbigant on Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.⁷ I mean his version.⁸

My wife is better than she was, and proposes to make an excursion of a fortnight to Nottingham, along with Mr Russell's⁹ family, after you have been with us. I wish, therefore, that you would make your journey as soon as you conveniently can, but not to hurry yourself.

The Hymns¹⁰ are not quite ready, but will tomorrow or saturday.

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

Birm. Jun 24 1790

¹ Priestley, *Reflections on Death. A Sermon, on Occasion of the Death of the Rev. Robert Robinson* (Birmingham, 1790).

² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

³ Robert Robinson (1735-1790), see 11 Jun 1790.

⁴ Michael Dodson (1732-1799), see 27 Nov 1787.

⁵ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

⁶ William Frend (1757-1841), see 4 May 1789.

⁷ Charles François Houbigant (1686-1783), author of *Biblia Hebraica cum Notis Criticis et Versione Latinâ ad Notas Criticas Factâ; accedunt Libri Græci qui Deutero-Canonici vocantur in Tres Classes distributi*, 3 vols. (Paris, 1753-54).

⁸ The text of Rutt's edition ends here.

⁹ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

¹⁰ *Psalms and Hymns for the use of the New Meeting in Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1790).