

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 155-156

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 71-72

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Jul 03 1790

Birm July 2. 1790

Dear Sir¹

~~2~~ //The// time you mention will suit us as well as any other. My wife is determined not to go farther from home than to Heath where she always fancies she is the best. Of late she has been very poorly, and the day before yesterday, she [was] coughing violently at tea time, in consequence of taking something into the windpipe, she burst a blood vessel and continued to spit blood perhaps two hours, but in no great quantity, and it has not returned since; so that this circumstance does not alarm me so much as her general habit. She is continually feverish, and has other consumptive symptoms. But it is remarkable how suddenly they sometimes all disappear, and she looks as well as ever she did in her life; so that I am not without hope that she may do well.²

Your remark on my Sermon³ is very just, and if it was to print, I would alter it. However, tho Mr R⁴ did not preach against the trinity openly in his own pulpit, he managed in such a manner as to make the greatest part of his congregation unitarians, and the change in his sentiments was so well known, as to have a great effect upon many at a distance. He ought certainly to have made a public recantation of his book; and in time, I hope, he would have done it. But //to// this he was no doubt too reluctant.

I have had a good deal of trouble in pleasing Mr Curtis,⁵ and the family, about the early history of Mr R., as you will see by ~~the~~ his letters, which I will send you. At length, however, all is settled by cancelling one half and adding another, but the alterations are quite trifling, as they appeared to his eldest son, who called upon me on Sunday last. We are printing the alterations, and I shall soon send you copies.⁶ You have seen Mr Toulmin's⁷ sermon,⁸ to which is annexed a fuller history of him. Dr Rees's⁹ is also expected to be printed.¹⁰

¹ Rutt: Dear Friend [Rutt, I, ii, 71].

² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

³ Priestley, *Reflections on Death. A Sermon, on Occasion of the Death of the Rev. Robert Robinson* (Birmingham, 1790).

⁴ Robert Robinson (1735-1790), see 26 Aug 1787.

⁵ William Curtis, Robinson's son in law, see 21 Jun 1790.

⁶ The previous three sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁷ Joshua Toulmin (1740-1815), see 9 Mar 1789.

⁸ Joshua Toulmin, *Christian Vigilance. Considered in a Sermon, preached at the Baptist Chapel, in Taunton, on the Lord's Day, after the Sudden Removal of the Learned and Reverend Robert Robinson. By Joshua Toulmin, M.A. To which is added, some Account of Mr. Robinson, and his Writings* (London, 1790).

⁹ Abraham Rees (1743-1823), see 3 Apr 1789.

¹⁰ Abraham Rees, *The Doctrine of Christ, the Only Effectual Remedy against the Fear of Death: and the Union of Good Men in the Future World: in Two Sermons, preached at Cambridge, on Lord's Day, June the 27th, 1790. On Occasion of the Death of the Late Rev. Robert Robinson, who died at Birmingham, June the 8th, 1790; in the Fifty-Fifth Year of his Age. To which is annexed, a Catalogue of his Publications* (London, 1790).

We wonder much that we do not receive Mr. Belsham's¹¹ Sermon.¹² He is to meet me at Warwick on Monday¹³ sennight and therefore will be here before you, but I hope we shall be together part at least of your time. Mr Tayleur¹⁴ expresses much satisfaction in the thought of seeing us.

I greatly admire Bruce's Travels,¹⁵ which Mr Galton¹⁶ has made me a present of. He well illustrates many passages of Scripture – Today I hope to finish the rough copy of my translation of the Psalms. I find much help in Green.¹⁷ Have you anything on Ecclesiastes?¹⁸ On monday we begin to reprint my Familiar Letters¹⁹ – With M^{rs} P's best respects, yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley.

¹¹ Thomas Belsham, (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

¹² ? Thomas Belsham, *The Importance of Truth, and the Duty of Making an Open Profession of it: represented in a Discourse, delivered on Wednesday the 28th of April, 1790, at the Meeting-House in the Old-Jewry, London; to the Supporters of the New College at Hackney* (London, 1790).

¹³ Rutt's edition reads 'Monday' although the MS text is unclear [Rutt, I, ii, 71].

¹⁴ William Tayleur (1713-1796), see 20 Mar 1787.

¹⁵ James Bruce (1730-1794), *Travels to discover the Source of the Nile, in the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1773*, 6 vols. (Dublin, 1790-91).

¹⁶ Samuel Galton, see 7 Sept 1789.

¹⁷ William Green (1713/14-1794), Hebraist [ODNB], author of *A New Translation of the Psalms* (Cambridge, 1762).

¹⁸ Rutt's text ends here.

¹⁹ Priestley, *Familiar Letters, addressed to the Inhabitants of Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1790).