

79 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 13 July 1790

MS: Priestley Collection by Samuel Timmins, Birmingham City Archives, IIR10/73499

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 73-74

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

Warwick July 13. 1790

Dear friend,

I write from this place, because I find I shall not get home till late tomorrow, and before I go any farther, I must acquaint you with the chief cause of my writing. Mr William Wilkinson¹ has been with us about a week, and having to meet some friends at Matlock, is desirous to take my wife with him for a few days and as we think it will of service to her, we wish it to take place. But, on this account, it will be more convenient if you will put off your journey northwards one week. More[?] will[?] not be at all wanted, and I expect you both with impatience, and am sorry for this delay.²

Yesterday I preached a Sunday school Sermon in this place, to a very crowded audience, among whom was D^r Parr.³ Today he is to attend the ordination service of Mr Field,⁴ I preach and Mr Belsham,⁵ who is not yet arrived, gives the charge. He then dines with us, and tomorrow I and Mr Russell,⁶ with some others, are to dine with him in our way home. We called upon him in our way hither. He was not at home, but M^{rs} Parr⁷ who is almost as pompous as himself and seemingly a very sensible woman, received us in his library, which consists of, she said, six thousand volumes. It is indeed an immense collection for a private clergyman, and cost, she said, more than two thousand pounds, exclusive of many presents. He is a singular character, but evidently courting admiration to excess. His ~~-2-~~ sentiments, I doubt not, are the same with ours, but his great object is preferment and therefore he will never sacrifice any thing to truth.⁸ He seems to have made out who Junius⁹ was, a Mr Lloyd,¹⁰ whose natural son he had the care of. He is now dead, but a brother of his,¹¹ a canon of Norwich I think a particular acquaintance of D^r Parr, is living. He was a man in public office, devoted to Mr Grenville¹² who was supplanted by the duke of Grafton.¹³

¹ William Wilkinson (1744-1808), see 27 Jul 1787.

² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

³ Samuel Parr (1747-1825), see 29 Aug 1787.

⁴ William Field (1768-1852), Unitarian minister [ODNB]. In 1789 Field had succeeded John Kettle as minister of the Presbyterian congregation at High Street Chapel, Warwick. See Priestley, *A View of Revealed Religion; a Sermon, preached at the Ordination of the Rev. William Field of Warwick, July 12, 1790* (Birmingham, 1790).

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

⁶ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁷ Jane Parr (1747-1810), wife of Samuel Parr (1747-1825) [ODNB].

⁸ The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁹ Junius was the pseudonym adopted by the author of a series of letters on political topics which appeared in the *Public Advertiser* between 1769 and 1772. See Junius (fl. 1768-1773) [ODNB].

¹⁰ ? Charles Lloyd (1735-1773), politician and pamphleteer [ODNB].

¹¹ ? Philip Lloyd (1728/9-1790), dean of Norwich [ODNB].

¹² George Grenville (1712-1770), prime minister [ODNB].

¹³ Augustus Henry FitzRoy, third duke of Grafton (1735-1811), see 7 Feb 1789.

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I am eager to ask Mr Belsham what he has done with Job. ~~?~~ I have finished the Psalms, and am engaged with the book of Proverbs. I mean the first rough copy, to determine the general sense. But I have made many marks of absolute uncertainty, as D^r Heberden¹⁴ advised, where such passages occur, and indeed they are very many.

I should not have written seen Mr Belsham, but I know we shall be engaged in the meeting beyond the hour of the post. I have begun to reprint my Familiar Letters,¹⁵ which I find every day to have //been// more and more read in the neighbourhood, and not without effect.

I hope there is a letter for me from you at Birmingham, but I shall not see it till tomorrow morning.

Yours & Mrs Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley

Warwick July 13. 1790

¹⁴ William Heberden (1710-1801), see 9 Mar 1789.

¹⁵ Priestley, *Familiar Letters addressed to the Inhabitants of Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1790).