

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 159-160

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 74

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Jul 17 1790

[July 16. 1790]

Dear friend

I am glad that it proves not to be inconvenient to you to defer your journey a week. After that time it will be perfectly agreeable to us. This day we expect Mr W^m Wilkinson¹ from Heath, and tomorrow he takes my wife to Matlock. He will be with us all the time of your stay, and talks of taking my wife [[on]] a longer ramble to the sea coast afterwards. Such, at least, is the plan at present. She is evidently better, and I hope will go on to mend.²

Dr Parr³ seemed to be very much ~~not~~ pleased with Mr Belsham,⁴ whose charge he heard. He dined with us, and the next day we dined with him at his own house. Mr Belsham, who stayed after us, had much conversation with him, and was much entertained. He has just breakfasted here on his way to Cirencester, and he will return while you are here, and it will suit him, he says, much better than to come sooner, as was first intended.

D^r Parr was studiously civil, and very open. He has now, certainly, no measures to keep with the high church party, tho' he did not directly declare himself an Unitarian. M^{rs} Parr⁵ has a bad opinion of Dr Pors[on]⁶ both as immoral, and an unbeliever, and I could perceive that her husband did not say any thing to lead me to think otherwise of him, tho' he was not præ//re//sent when she spoke of him. Had he been a conscientious christian, ~~he~~ //he// would have been a great acquisition. D^r Parr considers //him// as the first Grecian in this country.⁷

I much fear that Mr Toulmin's work⁸ will not sell to any great extent. The orthodox have a zeal in these matters that we have not. I heartily wish well to it, and shall do all I can to promote it.

I had much rather Mr Wesley's life⁹ had been written by the elder, than the younger Mr Hampson.¹⁰ The latter is in the church, and therefore cannot write some parts as we should wish them to be written.

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

² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

³ Samuel Parr (1747-1825), see 9 Sept 1787.

⁴ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

⁵ Jane Parr (1747-1810), see 13 Jul 1790.

⁶ Richard Porson (1759-1808), classical scholar [ODNB].

⁷ The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

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* (London, 1790).

⁹ John Hampson, *Memoirs of the Late Rev. John Wesley, A.M. with a Review of his Life and Writings, and a History of Methodism, from it's Commencement in 1729, to the Present Time* (London, 1791).

¹⁰ John Hampson (1760-c.1817) [ODNB]. Hampson had left the Methodists in around 1784 and became a Church of England minister in Sunderland [Francis Watt, 'Hampson, John (1760-c.1817)' rev. Mari G. Ellis, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, online edn.].

I wish you would call on Otridge,¹¹ and look at N^o 3041 of ~~the~~ his Catalogue. You know I have in view to inquire into the origin and return of idolatry and as I have two learned works of the same author, ~~ref~~ frequently referring to it, I should like to have this, if it appear to you to be valuable. If you would like to have the Life of Marolles,¹² which I reprinted it is N^o 4255 in this Catalogue. Take also for me N^o 10481 Mason on Self Knowledge[.]¹³

I shall be glad to see Dr Edwards's Sermon¹⁴ and the other things you talk of bringing with you. I hope to have finished my part of the Translation before you come. – I hardly expected peace. I hope some great good is coming forward, and this is seldom effected without great preceding calamity.

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

Birm. July 16. 1790

¹¹ William Otridge (d. 1812), bookseller [BBTI].

¹² Priestley, ed., M. (Isaac) Jaquelot, *An History of the Sufferings of Mr. Lewis de Marolles, and Mr. Isaac Le Fevre, upon the Revocation of the Edict of Nantz* (Birmingham, 1788).

¹³ John Mason (1706-1763), *Self-Knowledge. A Treatise, shewing the Nature and Benefit of that Important Science, and the Way to attain it. Intermixed with Various Reflections and Observations on Human Nature* (London, 1745). This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁴ Thomas Edwards (1759?-1842). Possibly either *The Jewish and Heathen Rejection of the Christian Miracles. A Sermon preached before the University of Cambridge, on Sunday, March 7, 1790, by Thomas Edwards* (Cambridge, 1790) or *The Predictions of the Apostles concerning the End of the World. A Sermon preached before the University of Cambridge, May 23, 1790. By Thomas Edwards, LLD* (Bury, 1790).