

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 181-182

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 97

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Nov 27 1790

Birm. Nov 26. 1790

Dear friend

I have been in town every day since tuesday, expecting the parcell which you promised to send on monday or tuesday, and have not yet received it; but hope to find it today. I want it much for the sake of inserting various additions, and arranging the whole in the best manner, as I hope to begin to print it the next week. To prevent any more delay, I have got the Preface set, but not printed off, that you might make your remarks just as if it had been a MS, without any obligation to return it. I inclose it in this letter.¹

I have heard from D^r Price,² and have received from him the New Preface &c to his Sermon.³ It is much to the purpose, and I think I may make some use of it in my Letters to Mr Burke.⁴ D^r Price readily concurs with me in procuring a degree for Mr Toulmin.⁵ Suppose we, at the same time, recommend Mr Belsham.⁶ I wish you would sound him about it, unless you think it would be better to do it without his knowledge. The objection to it is, that there are so many Doctors in London, that it is no honorary distinction there, tho it is in the country. On this account I really think that, were I in London, I should not chuse it.⁷

I shall be glad to see the letter from Mr Kirwan,⁸ and shall hope to have it today, as I am going to put this into the Post, and look for ~~2~~ //the// parcell from you.

Dr Price mentions his apprehension of the attempts of the Aristocrats to subvert the French governm^t, but has no doubt of this being unsuccessful.

L^d Stanhope⁹ can hardly be serious in his design to impeach Mr Burke¹⁰ of High Treason. However, it will make the subject talked of.

I am reading, and with great satisfaction, Ramsay's¹¹ History of the American Revolution, with a copy of which Mr B Vaughan¹² presented me, and I shall quote a passage or two from it in my Letters to Mr Burke.¹³

¹ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

² Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

³ Richard Price, *Preface and Additions to the Discourse on the Love of our Country* (London, 1790).

⁴ Priestley, *Letters to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, occasioned by his Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Birmingham, 1791).

⁵ Joshua Toulmin (1740-1815), see 9 Mar 1789.

⁶ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

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

⁸ Richard Kirwan (1733-1812), see 21 Mar 1788.

⁹ Charles Stanhope, third Earl Stanhope (1753-1816), politician, see 14 Aug 1789. Stanhope was a chairman of the Revolution Society, founded to commemorate the centenary of the events of 1688, and a friend of Richard Price. He defended the latter against the strictures of Burke's *Reflections* in *A Letter from Earl Stanhope to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke* (1790) [G. M. Ditchfield, 'Stanhope, Charles, third Earl Stanhope (1753-1816)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, online edn.].

¹⁰ Edmund Burke (1729-1797), see 22 Mar 1790.

I think I told [[you]] that our congrega[tion] have agreed to make proposals to Mr Blyth¹⁴ again, and that Mr Russell¹⁵ has written in confid[ence] to Mr Lewis,¹⁶ to know whether he would accept an invitation to be ~~copaster~~ copaster with me. To our great surprize he has not heard from him, unless perhaps yesterday, tho it is ~~2~~ a fortnight since the first letter was written.¹⁷

Hoping to find a letter and parcell from you, I am, yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley.

¹¹ David Ramsay (1749-1815) [ODNB], author of *The History of the American Revolution* [first London edition 1790].

¹² Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835), see 14 May 1789.

¹³ See Priestley, *Letters to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke* (1791), 15, 141-142.

¹⁴ Samuel Blyth, (1718/19-1796), see 29 Mar 1790.

¹⁵ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

¹⁶ ? Revd George Lewis, Mare Street, Hackney, listed as a member of the Unitarian Society for promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue, 1791. See *Unitarian Society* (London, 1791?).

¹⁷ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.