

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 191-192

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 98

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Jan 10 1791

[Jan 49.1791]

Dear friend

I beg you would express my most grateful acknowledgments to M^{rs} Rayner¹ for her unceasing bounty to me. I shall not fail to write to her in my next parcell, which will contain some copies of the new edition of my letters, and the tract of L^d Somers.² You may send the bill in your next cover.

Some of your corrections came too late, but not others //we had printed 4 sheets//. I have introduced a part of the former concluding letter into this edition, such as Mr Russell³ was very unwilling to have lost, and to which the objections you made before //as boastful and repetitious// did not apply; but it so happens that it is not what you now recommend. However, as it is a matter of taste only, which is exceedingly various, I hope it will not offend you much. We think it will please Mr Shore,⁴ who recommended an appearance of ease and pleasantry. But do not condemn the passage till you see it in its new connection.

I have written to ~~a friend~~ Mr Cooper⁵ to look out for a situation for my son at Manchester, But I know of no such friends as you speak of there.

Mr Jardine⁶ has declined accepting our invitation, and Mr Russell, having ~~had~~ //procured from [him][?]/ a letter of recommendation of Mr Watson of Chichester⁷ will propose him next Sunday. Mr Russell's hearing being rather better than it was, //he// will hardly[?] ~~-?~~ //go// to London till about my time.⁸

I have just received from Mr Hartly⁹ his life of his father. I cannot say I admire the composition, But it may do pretty well. I shall suggest to him a few additions, and I think that, as he speaks of his father's system as long neglected, and now likely to be adopted, some other person than myself might suggest, that it might [not] be improper to mention the per[son][?] who has been chiefly instrumental in ~~bringing~~ bringing it into notice, and confirming it.¹⁰

If you see Mr Johnson,¹¹ //tell him// that Mr Pearson¹² prints two sheets of the Letters every day, so that the whole will be finished, I expect, this week.¹³

¹ Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

² John Somers (1651-1716), lawyer and politician [ODNB]. Rutt conjectures that the tract may be *The Judgment of Whole Kingdoms and Nations*, frequently, although probably erroneously, attributed to John Somers [Rutt, I, ii, 98].

³ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁴ Samuel Shore (1738-1828), see 26 Aug 1787.

⁵ Thomas Cooper (1759-1839), see 12 Mar 1790.

⁶ David Jardine (1766-1797), see 13 Oct 1790.

⁷ Thomas Watson, minister at Chichester, Sussex (1785-1788), see 29 Mar 1790.

⁸ The preceding three paragraphs are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁹ David Hartley jnr. (1731-1813), son of David Hartley (bap. 1705, d. 1757).

¹⁰ The second part of this sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹¹ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

¹² Thomas Pearson (d. 1791), Priestley's publisher in Birmingham.

94 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 9 January 1791

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

¹³ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition. Rutt's text ends with the fourth paragraph from a separate letter of 17 Jan 1791, omitted from his edition.