

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 197-198

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

[Feb 13. 91]

Dear friend

I inclose M^r Toulmin's¹ certificate, signed by D^r Price² and myself, and I wish you would sign it too.

I thank you for mentioning my situation to the Duke of Grafton;³ but till I hear from you again, I own I do not see the propriety of thanking him for his intention. It looks like catching at his favours, and binding him to the performance of what he may not have absolutely promised.

I have seen the Vindication of Mr Burke.⁴ For sophistry, and impudence, I never saw any thing equal to it. Part of it I think must have been written by himself. Such defences will do no service to any cause with men of sense; but it will please the many admirers of Mr Burke's own book.

Here I receive yours, and one from Mr Belsham.⁵ My answer to him, on the subject of the Sermon,⁶ I send open to you. It will give me a little time.

I have had a letter or two from Mr Small of Holywell⁷ myself, and some lately, but not of consequence to send you.

I prefer the idea of a slip of paper pasted, or not pasted, on the inside of the cover, and would not, for the present at least, have the words you mention printed on the title page of the books. It may be done hereafter.

I have just made a experiment of great consequence, and shall soon send an account of it to the Royal Society. It proves that water and the nitrous acid consist of the same elements. I shall lay it before our lunar society on monday next.

Joseph⁸ inclines much to settle in Manchester, on account of the liberal society he finds there, and he thinks he has already some prospect of an opening for him in a partnership there. I have ~~many~~ //many// friends very zealous to serve him there, and they are exerting themselves to the utmost for him.

I am, in haste,
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley

¹ Joshua Toulmin (1740-1815), see 9 Mar 1789.

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

³ Augustus Henry FitzRoy, third duke of Grafton (1735-1811), see 5 Feb 1789.

⁴ Thomas Goold, *A Vindication of the Right Honorable Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France, in Answer to all his Opponents* (London, 1791).

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

⁶ Priestley, *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World: represented in a Discourse, delivered on Wednesday, April 27, 1791, at the Meeting-House in the Old-Jewry, London; to the Supporters of the New College at Hackney* (London, 1791).

⁷ Mr. Small of Holywell, Flinshire, listed as a member of the Unitarian Society for promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue, 1791. See *Unitarian Society* (London, 1791?).

⁸ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

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