

103 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 7 March 1791

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 207-208

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 104

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Mar 08 179

Birm. March 7. 1791

Dear friend

On second thoughts, I would not have any thing said to M^{rs} Rayner¹ about the money for Joseph² till I come. Besides, the reports which threatened a fall of the stocks seem to go off, and the expectation of peace is said to raise them.³

I have just received an alarming account from Mr S. Palmer⁴ of D^r Price's⁵ illness, occasioned by a neglected cold. I flatter myself however, that ~~y~~ //as// I heard from you by the same post, and you had been ~~at~~ at Mr Vaughans,⁶ that if there had been much danger in the case, you would have heard of it, and have mentioned it. You will not fail to give me all the intelligence you can procure concerning a thing that interests us so much. Next to yourself, I should feel the ~~loss~~ loss of him the most sensibly.

We have had unexpected delays, but I believe our congregation will be called together on sunday //next,// when I doubt not an invitation will be given to Mr Broadhurst⁷ to preach as a candidate for us, and I have as little doubt of his being approved. They are in the less hurry, as I have suggested that the most convenient time for Mr Broadhurst to be here will be ~~at~~ //during// my absence in London, and then, if he can come to settle at the commencement of the vacation, every thing will be as well as can be wished. I wish you would inform Mr Belsham⁸ of these particulars, as he may wonder at our delays, especially as many are impatient for a successor to Mr Blyth,⁹ who indeed fails much.¹⁰

I thank you for the trouble you have taken about my commissions. I shall have occasion to send Mr Johnson¹¹ a parcell in a few days, and then I will return De Lolme,¹² and send you another Paper for the Royal Society, to be given to D^r Heberden.¹³

I have heard nothing about my Sermon, but I infer from a letter of Mr Belsham's to Mr Russell,¹⁴ that I am expected to preach. If so, I wish you would send me the Sermon as soon as you can get it, with your remarks. I have put down several hints for improvements.

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

² Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

³ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁴ Samuel Palmer (1741-1813), see 22 Jan 1790.

⁵ Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

⁶ ? William Vaughan (1752-1850), see 27 Jul 1787.

⁷ Thomas Broadhurst (1767?-1851), see 23 Feb 1791.

⁸ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

⁹ Samuel Blyth, (1718/19-1796), see 29 Mar 1790.

¹⁰ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's editon.

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

¹² Jean Louis De Lolme, *The History of the Flagellants* (London, 1776).

¹³ William Heberden (1710-1801), see 18 Nov 1789.

¹⁴ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

103 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 7 March 1791

As I cannot but feel interested about my brother,¹⁵ I wish you would desire Mr Johnson to send me the pamphlet tha[t is] written against him.¹⁶ Mr Palmer mentions it in his letter to me.¹⁷

I have no confidence in any clergyman's writing the life of Mr Wesley¹⁸ properly, and it is a thing of some consequence. The father¹⁹ would have done it much better – I hope care will be taken to prevent the repetition of the riots in 1780²⁰ and that nothing will prevent the relief of the Catholics. We have formed a stong resolution in their favour, as you will soon see.

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

¹⁵ Timothy Priestley, (1734-1814). In 1791 Timothy Priestley was minister at the Jewin Street Independent Church, London [ODNB].

¹⁶ William Huntington, *The Barber; or, Timothy Priestley Shaved, as reflected from His Own Looking Glass* (London: G. Terry, 1791).

¹⁷ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's editon.

¹⁸ John Hampson, *Memoirs of the late Rev. John Wesley* (Sunderland, 1791), see 16 Jul 1790.

¹⁹ Hampson's father was a Methodist preacher under John Wesley.

²⁰ The Gordon Riots of 1780 in response to the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1778.