

107 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 2 June 1791

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 214-215

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ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Jun 03 1791

ENDORSEMENT: D<sup>r</sup> P. June 2: 1791

June 2. 1791. Birm.

Dear friend

I am glad that you approve of my Address to the Methodists &c.,<sup>1</sup> and the additions to the discourse on the resurrection.<sup>2</sup> I hope also you approved of the Preface and Address to the Jews, tho you do not mention them. I am never quite satisfied, however I may like any thing myself, till I have your imprimatur.

Among the presents of the Funeral Sermon<sup>3</sup> I strangely forgot the Mr Morgans<sup>4</sup> and I fear you have not thought of them for me. I wish therefore you would present them with copies, and make the best apology you can for me, from the hurry I was in when I drew up the list &c. They would of ~~?~~ course expect them, and be much disappointed.

The Letters ~~?~~ relating to Mr Wesley<sup>5</sup> will all be printed this week, and published some time in the next. I demur about offering the publication to the Methodists, as they may consider it as an insult, which I am far from intending.

As Mr Russell<sup>6</sup> is now returned to London, I hope you will see more of him than you did before. I begin to fear that his attempt to serve the College will be ineffectual, the manager having no sufficient interest to see that the new regulation be put in execution; and as I find by yours that what he expected to be done in the way of regulation is not yet done, I fear they are jealous of his interference.

By Mr Russell's account Mr Morgan<sup>7</sup> was most likely to be chosen to succeed D<sup>r</sup> Price.<sup>8</sup> I am much concerned for Mr Belsham,<sup>9</sup> on all accounts, but I do not see what can be done – things must take their course, and we must content ourselves with hoping that all ~~?~~ will end well.

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<sup>1</sup> Priestley, *Original Letters, by the Rev. John Wesley, and his Friends, illustrative of the Early History... to which is prefaced an Address to the Methodists* (Birmingham, 1791).

<sup>2</sup> Priestley, *The Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus considered, in a Discourse first delivered in the Assembly-Room, at Buxton, on Sunday, September 19, 1790. To which is added, an Address to the Jews* (Birmingham, 1791).

<sup>3</sup> Priestley, *A Discourse on Occasion of the Death of Dr. Price; delivered at Hackney, on Sunday, May 1, 1791* (London, 1791). Price had died on 19 April 1791.

<sup>4</sup> George Cadogan Morgan (1754-1798), see 12 Oct 1789, and his brother William Morgan (1750-1833), actuary to the Society for Equitable Assurances [ODNB].

<sup>5</sup> John Wesley (1703-1791), see 9 Mar 1789.

<sup>6</sup> ? William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

<sup>7</sup> George Cadogan Morgan.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769. Although Morgan was expected to succeed Price, he did not but soon afterwards left Hackney and set up a school at Southgate in Middlesex [D. O. Thomas, 'Morgan, George Cadogan (1754-1798)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, online edn.].

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

I am much inclined, from Mr Russell's account of Mr Wakefield,<sup>10</sup> to send Harry<sup>11</sup> to him for about a year, after he has done with Mr ~~?~~ Estlin.<sup>12</sup> I wish to make him a scholar, and tho I shall take the care of him myself before he goes to any Academy, to give him a knowledge of Philosophy, and chemistry, //it is// so long since I taught the languages, that I should not do it to proper advantage, and till he be a little older, he will be ~~?~~ better from home. The expence is my only objection; but the time will not be long, as he will be well grounded by Mr Estlin.

I am concerned at the difficulties of the French, as I hoped those of that kind especially had been over. My list of Presents to Mr Johnson<sup>13</sup> expressed that all the three discourses should be sent to the same person. ~~£~~ //As// you //have// delivered the other message, it will be sufficient.

Mr Wakefield told Mr Russell, that he should be glad to serve our intended unitarian Chapple at Birmingham. This you will like to hear.

My wife, (who is pretty well, and desires to be remembered to you) thinks that besides a silk waistcoat I left a shift at Mr Vaughan's.<sup>14</sup> If you should call, I wish you would mention them.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), see 3 Apr 1789.

<sup>11</sup> Henry (Harry) Priestley (b. 1777), see 5 July 1786.

<sup>12</sup> John Prior Estlin (1747-1808), see 14 Jul 1787.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

<sup>14</sup> ? William Vaughan (1752-1850), see 27 Jul 1787.

<sup>15</sup> Rutt's edition contains a postscript not in the MS.