

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 226-227

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 206-207

Clapton Aug. 23. 1793

Dear friend

I am happy in the thought of so much of your absence from London being expired, tho I hope you enjoy that absence, and on this account I enjoy it too. Mr Belsham¹ is also on a journey, and I imagine you will return about the same time. I wished to send both of you copies of my An^r to Mr Evanson;² but owing to one cause of delay or another, it will not be quite ready till the beginning of the next week, and there is no reason why the publication should be hurried.³

We are much alarmed with the apprehension of a war with America. It is the opinion of most, that this event, disastrous as it must be, will take place, and on this account Joseph's⁴ wife has determined to go with him. Fortunately the last birth in the ship was vacated by a lady who was thought too far gone in a state of pregnancy to venture. Now all is settled, and they go to Gravesend tomorrow, tho it was not resolved upon till yesterday at dinner time. As she is much recovered, we hope there will be no great risk; and the prospect of perhaps not meeting of some years, if she missed this opportunity, we think will justify some risk. I have promoted it all I ~~could~~ could, thinking it best upon the whole.⁵ I hope a good providence will attend them.

Every thing I see or hear inclines me more to think of following my sons, if they should find a desirable situation for me; tho considering my age, I am not much concerned about it, provided they be out of this country, and do well elsewhere.

I have had a good deal of communication with Mr Dodson⁶ relating to my An^r to Mr Evanson whose part he is, in many respects, still inclined to take. I have on this account made an Appendix to my work, which however does not entirely satisfy him. He is persuaded that Paul, in two passages, refers to a ~~the~~ written Gospel, and that this was the Gospel of Luke. But to me this appears highly improbable. D^r Blackburne⁷ says he thinks he can convey a copy of my works to you, and I am to give him one with that view when I see him next, if a copy can be ready; but I now hardly expect it. Not having at that time a cover for you, I gave him a letter to you from Mr Dodson, as he said he could convey it.⁸ With respects as before,

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

¹ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

² Priestley, *Letters to a Young Man, Part II. Occasioned by Mr. Evanson's Treatise on the Dissonance of the Four Generally Received Evangelists* (London, 1793).

³ This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁴ Joseph Priestley, jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

⁵ The preceding four sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁶ Michael Dodson (1732-1799), see 27 Nov 1787.

⁷ William Blackburne, son of Francis Blackburne (1705-1787), see 4 May 1789.

⁸ The preceding two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.