

81 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 22 July 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 161-162

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 75

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Jul 23 1790

[Birmingham July 22 1790.]

Dear friend

I rejoice exceedingly in the near prospect of seeing you and M^{rs} Lindsey here. I have no greater satisfaction in this life than in my interviews with you. The time of your coming will every way suit us. My wife will not chuse to spend more than a week at Matlock, ~~and~~ so that she will be here the day before you arrive. That week will also suit Mr Belsham¹ better than any other to be in Birmingham.²

If you see Mr Dodson,³ tell him it will by no means do to reprint either Blayney⁴ or Bp Newcome,⁵ as we must keep much nearer to the phraseology of the present version than they do. We must content ourselves with departing from it only for the sake of some real improvement. I have now gone once thro the Psalms and Proverbs, and I will undertake //Daniel and// the minor prophets if he will do Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Or, as I have more than six months before me, and I am determined to make this my principal business, I can very well do the whole, or if you think so, you need not say any thing to him, or tell him that I shall undertake it, if he has not leisure, ~~or~~ or that he may take what he pleases, and leave me the rest. I fear some quaintness in his style, and we must avoid every thing of that kind, or we shall be laughed at.⁶

You will think me extravagant, but I wish you would buy for me from Gardener's⁷ Catalogue opposite S^t Clement's Church in the Strand

No 4501 Neabuhr's Travels 2vols. 12.00⁸

I expect material service from them in this translation, as I have found from Bruce.⁹ They were sent with a view to the illustration of scripture and I once read a good part of the work.

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

² The previous two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

³ Michael Dodson (1737-1799), see 18 Nov 1789.

⁴ Benjamin Blayney (1727/8-1801), Hebraist and Church of England clergyman, author of a corrected edition of the Authorized Version of the Bible which appeared in 1769 [ODNB].

⁵ William Newcome (1729-1800), Church of Ireland archbishop of Armagh and theologian, author of *An Attempt towards revising our English Translation of the Greek Scriptures* (1796). In 1808 the Unitarians issued, anonymously, *an Improved Version upon the Basis of Archbishop Newcome's New Translation*. The adaptations were mainly the work of Thomas Belsham, whose arguments were angrily refuted on 7 August 1809 by Newcome's friend Joseph Stock, bishop of Killala and Achonry [Alexander Gordon, 'Newcome, William (1729-1800)', rev. J. Falvey, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, online edn.].

⁶ The previous three sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁷ Henry Gardner (d. 1808), bookseller [BBTI].

⁸ Carsten Niebuhr (1733-1815), *Travels through Arabia, and other Countries in the East, performed by M. Niebuhr, translated into English by Robert Heron. With Notes by the Translator; and illustrated with Engravings and Maps*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1792) [earliest edition listed on ESTC].

⁹ James Bruce (1730-1794), see 2 Jul 1790.

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I must beg copies of your Apology and Sequel and //single// Sermons,¹⁰ to replace my volume that I lost by lending. I hope it will do good wherever it falls.¹¹ And please to desire Mr Johnson¹² to send me three Copies of my English Grammar ~~with~~ the larger edition.¹³

I have sent my French Repeater to Mr B[rown]¹⁴ (Opposite Water Lane Fleet Street) to [be][?] repaired. Please to call on him, pay him h[is] demand, and bring it with you if you can. At least, urge him to send it as soon as possible.

You will perhaps write again before you come. Wishing you a good journey, I am, My best friend,

yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's

most affectionately

J Priestley.

Birm. July 22. 1790

¹⁰ Lindsey, *The Apology of Theophilus Lindsey, M.A. on resigning the Vicarage of Catterick, Yorkshire* (London, 1774), *A Sequel to The Apology on resigning the Vicarage of Catterick, Yorkshire* (London, 1776) [ESTC lists no edition of Lindsey's Sermons].

¹¹ The text of Rutt's edition ends here.

¹² Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

¹³ Joseph Priestley, *The Rudiments of English Grammar adapted to the use of Schools* [ESTC lists 10 editions between 1761 and 1798].

¹⁴ John Brown, listed in Henry Kent, *Kent's Directory for the Year 1794* (London, 1794) as 'Jeweller & Watchmaker' at 149 Fleet Street.