

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 171-172
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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London
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Birm. Oct 17. 1790

Dear friend

At length we are, thro a good providence, safely arrived at our comfortable habitation, and I am returned to my usual pleasing pursuits. We are both better for the journey, tho my rheumatism is not quite gone. I find Mr Russell's¹ family in deep affliction, as you will suppose; but at the same time as comfortable as could be expected. He desires me to thank you for the letter you wrote him, which appears to have given him very great satisfaction; but he is unable to write at all, his right hand having been much bruised, and the gout having fallen to it. I fear he will be in this condition some time. Next sunday they go to public worship, where I shall deliver a discourse on the melancholly occasion, and after that he proposes to take his son² to Hackney, his daugh[ter]³ accompanying him, but their stay will be short. You will of course see them.⁴

I could not find time to peruse Mr Dodson's Isaiah⁵ on my journey, but shall set about it immediately, as also this transcription of what I have done to the Psalms &c. My son W^m⁶ having at present nothing to do, will assist me in this business. Soon, however, he is to go to Bradly, and be under his elder brother⁷ for some time. The latter his uncle⁸ proposes to remove to Bersham in Wales, where he has a foundry ill conducted, and which he wants to bring into better order. To this, however, Joseph and the young lady have very great aversion and indeed with some reason, and how the affair will terminate I cannot tell. I hope to see Mr Wilkinson soon, and shall mediate matters as well as I can.⁹

While I was at Buxton there came one Mr Nordenskiold¹⁰ from Sweden, accompanied by Mr Wadstorn,¹¹ whom we saw at Mr Martin's¹² to Birmingham on purpose, as they said, to see me. They followed me to Buxton, and I had several conversations with them, but what they had to propose (which related to Natural Philosophy) was so wild and absurd, that I could not treat it with much respect, and they went away ~~?~~ much disappointed, leaving me a note which I shall take some opportunity

¹ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

² Thomas Pougher Russell (1775-1851), see S. H. Jeyes, *The Russells of Birmingham in the French Revolution and in America 1791-1814* (London: George Allen, 1911), 5.

³ Martha Russell.

⁴ The previous three sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁵ Michael Dodson, *A New Translation of Isaiah; with Notes* (London, 1790).

⁶ William Priestley (b. 1771), see 22 Jul 1789.

⁷ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

⁸ John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

⁹ The previous five sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁰ ? August Nordenskiold (1754-1792), Swedish alchemist and Swedenborgian.

¹¹ ? Carl Bernhard Wadström (1746-1799), a native of Sweden [David Rivers, *Literary Memoirs of living Authors of Great Britain* (London, 1798), 346-7], author of a number of works on the slave trade and colonisation.

¹² ? Revd John Martin (1741-1820), Baptist preacher at Store Street Chapel, Bedford Square, author of *Animal Magnetism explained: in a Letter to a Country Gentleman* (London, 1790).

of sending you, and various books on the subject of Swedenborgianism, than whic[h] [no]thing can well be more absurd.

These people increase in this town, and ha[ve] built an elegant place of worship.¹³ With the principal¹⁴ of them I am well acquainted. They call themselves unitarians, and preach much against the trinity. One of them told me that what taught him to think on the subject of religion was my Appeal.¹⁵ As they court my acquaintance very much, I have some thoughts of writing an Address to them.¹⁶

We have just printed the last sheet of Collins.¹⁷ Has Mr Fren^d¹⁸ sent you, as I desired he would, the Tract that he thought could properly accompany it?

With all our best respects yours and M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately

J Priestley

¹³ The Swedenborgian temple in Newhall street, Birmingham was opened in 1790. See William Hutton, *A Brief History of Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1797), 32. Priestley had attended the opening service.

¹⁴ Joseph Proud (1745-1826), Swedenborgian minister [*ODNB*].

¹⁵ Priestley, *An Appeal to the Serious and Candid Professors of Christianity* (London, 1771).

¹⁶ Priestley, *Letters to the Members of the New Jerusalem Church, formed by Baron Swedenborg* (Birmingham, 1791).

¹⁷ Anthony Collins, *A Philosophical Inquiry concerning Human Liberty. By Anthony Collins, Esq. Republished with a Preface, by Joseph Priestley* (Birmingham, 1790).

¹⁸ William Fren^d (1757-1814), see 29 Jun 1788. Fren^d never completed the tract he promised to write for the edition of Collins.