

89 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 2 November 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 179-180

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

Birm. Nov 2. 1790

Dear friend

I inclose a parcel of Letters with my answers, which I beg you to forward. I also send my Resurrection Sermon,¹ with respect to which I request your freest opinion. It must, however, be returned in a few days, as I have promised to preach it at Dudley on Sunday sennight; Mr Wood² preaching our Sunday school sermon. I meant to give it to your congregation, and shall keep it for that purpose, if you please. I am //so// much urged to print it, that I hope it will do some good. But be not you biassed by this. I am reading P. Annet,³ and others on the subject.

Joseph's⁴ leaving his uncle⁵ is nearly settled. Indeed, the state of mind he has been in for a year past, that his uncle has taken it into his head to mortify him in deeds while in words he is most civil, is such as I cannot wish him to continue in; and ~~?~~ as he says his behaviour to his brother, and //to// all his clercks, shows what he has to expect. I shall send you the copy of a letter that I am writing to Mr W. on the subject, which will bring the matter to a conclusion some way or other, tho I look upon it as decided. That letter will shew you more than I can well explain without it. Joseph himself is much easier in his mind since he has determined to change his situation, from which he expected much mortification, and but little, and uncertain, and //very// distant advantage. I have more things to send you, and must make another parcel in a few days, and ~~?~~ in it will be some things relating to this business. W^m dreads the idea of coming under his uncle. In time I hope something may offer for one, if not both of them here. In the mean time, the difficulty coming on me unexpectedly, I cannot but be a little anxious about this event.⁶

I send a parcell of Sermons &c. Send them to whom you please in my name, or your own. Do not forget ~~Dr Disney~~ Mrs Rayner,⁷ Dr Disney⁸ ~~Dr Kippis~~ ~~Dr Price~~ ~~Dr Towers~~ ~~Mr Salte~~ ~~Mr Radcliffe~~ ~~Mr Barbau~~[id] ~~Dr Enfield~~ ~~Mr Bretland~~ ~~Mr Foulmin~~ Dr Blackburne⁹

Mr Johnson¹⁰ will take the trouble of some, an[d] if you see Mr Belsham,¹¹ you may contrive so as not to send duplicate to any person.

¹ 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* (Birmingham, 1791).

² William Wood (1745-1808), see 30 Sept 1790.

³ Peter Annet (1693-1769), religious controversialist [ODNB]. Annet wrote a number of works on the subject of the resurrection in the early 1740s, including *The Resurrection of Jesus considered by a Moral Philosopher* (1744), *The Resurrection Reconsidered* (1744?), *The Resurrection Defenders stripped of all Defence* (1745), and *The Resurrection of Jesus demonstrated to have No Proof* (1745?).

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

⁵ John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

⁶ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

⁷ Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

⁸ John Disney (1746-1816), see 11 Jun 1787.

⁹ The crossing out is in a different hand suggesting, perhaps, Lindsey's hand.

¹⁰ Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

¹¹ Thomas Belsham (1750-1829), see 3 Apr 1789.

I rejoice to hear that the war is unpopular, and the king disturbed at the idea of it.

As neither you nor Mr Belsham say any thing in particular about the state of the academy, I hope it is not so bad as Mr W¹² represented, or that what is bad will be set to rights¹³

I thank you for giving my History to Mr Plachel.¹⁴ Consider the whole impression (which is my property, as well as that of Early Opinions)¹⁵ as devoted to any good use that can be made of the distribution of them. [I have] a letter shewing the good that has arisen from [a] parcell of books I sent to Swansea, and I am making up another parcell.

A person calling upon me, obliges me to conclude in haste,

yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's

most affectionately

J Priestley

P.S. My wife is at Heath, all pretty well. I am quite alone and shall be so a fortnight, but shall be much at Mr Russell's¹⁶

¹² Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), see 3 Apr 1789.

¹³ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁴ unidentified.

¹⁵ Priestley, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ*, 4 vols. (Birmingham, 1786).

¹⁶ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.